

Residents say life after changes has been made 'torture'

U-TURN URGED ON ONE-WAY SYSTEM

Report by Jordan Harris

RESIDENTS in Caldmore are calling on Walsall Council to do a U-turn on a one-way system introduced in the area, which they say is making life 'torture' for them.

Controversial work is under way, at a cost of £150,000, to turn a busy street into a one-way system, and now even the council leader admits the scheme may have to be reversed.

The authority introduced a one-way system for motorists on Caldmore Road, between the junctions of Bradford Street and Corporation Street, in the new year, despite a 1,500-signature petition against the move. Residents and business owners have asked the council to undo its work at a scrutiny meeting.

Akhlaq Hussain, chairman of the Caldmore Traders Association, said one business has already closed on Caldmore Road since the change, with two more set to follow in the coming months, while others are laying off staff to survive.

Speaking at the meeting, he said: "This is what we told you would happen. This isn't going to work. The problems were there before and since the change, they have only got worse. Businesses are losing money, roads are gridlocked and we don't see any benefit to this."

Queues

Mohammed Bashir, who lives on nearby Sandwell Street, said traffic queues were bad in the morning and evening rush hours. He also claimed he has had to physically stop motorists 'fist-fighting' in the street.

He said: "We have a number of schools nearby and the roads were busy anyway. In the mornings, Caldmore Road and the surrounding streets, including mine, are gridlocked. People are shouting at each other from their cars and on a couple of occasions I have had to stop fist fights from breaking out. I have young children and I don't think they should be seeing this. It is torture for us as residents and this is the worst I have known it."

Work, which started in the new year is set to finish by the end of May.

During a heated discussion where Caldmore residents asked for the decision to be completely reversed as soon as possible, Councillor Mike Bird, council leader, said the authority may have to look at 'every option'. He said: "We have to listen to the people and I will ask that every option is looked at in order to get the best result. I am not making any promises but it may be that we have to reverse this."

HUNDREDS SEE HISTORIAN JACK'S FINAL JOURNEY



The funeral of Jack Haddock leaves his home on Webster Road, with his cycle on the roof



Jack, who was a keen photographer



One of the floral tributes seen inside the hearse

HUNDREDS of people gathered for the funeral of much-loved Walsall historian Jack Haddock.

The keen cyclist, photographer and RAF veteran was taken on his final journey through the borough, where those who knew him said their final goodbyes.

A hearse with his beloved bike on top left his home in Webster Road, Blakenall, at 11.30am before taking him to Lichfield Crematorium for the service at 12.30pm.

Jack died at the age of 89 at Walsall Manor Hospital on March 29 after suffering strokes and then contracting pneumonia.

As part of the service, six doves were released and his coffin featured pictures of the Flying Scotsman engine.

On route to the crematorium, his hearse paused on a railway bridge where Jack used to take photographs.

A spokesperson for funeral directors Norton Funerals of Brownhills said they were honoured to be a part of Jack's last journey.

Railway

They said: "The funeral went very well and there was an amazing turnout - the crematorium was full to the rafters."

"His bicycle was on the roof and taken away to the crematorium and we took a pause on a railway bridge where he used to take lots of photos."

"It was a fitting end for Jack and there were a lot of really nice tributes."

"He was a keen cyclist and it was a great honour to be able to take Jack on his final ride."

"People were very pleased with the service - it is how he would have wanted to go."

Jack was active in recording and helping to preserve the history of Walsall from the 1950s until last year, when he fell ill. He never married and had no children. Jack's close friend Rob Selvey is gathering memories of Jack.

Email Walsall Local History Centre on localhistorycentre@walsall.gov.uk to contribute.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY YOUR MAJESTY 90 TODAY

COUNCIL

Fury as pile of 70 tyres left dumped

A HAUL of more than 70 lorry tyres have been dumped on a Walsall road by a fly-tipper. Councillors have called for whoever dumped the tyres on Darlington Street, Darlaston, to come forward.

The pile of tyres has been called 'unbelievable' by Councillor Chris Bott, who also said it would take a lot of time and the use of specialist equipment to clear it up.

It has been estimated that fly-tipping is set to cost Walsall Council £120,000 this year, at the same time when council cuts could see £150,000 go from the budget for street cleaning services. Anyone who saw the tyres being dumped is asked to call Walsall clean and green on 01922 653344.

DEVELOPMENT

Council unveils plans for new multi-storeys

TWO brand new car parks with a combined capacity of over 700 spaces could be built in the borough, under ambitious plans revealed by Walsall Council.

The council say a new multi-storey car park is needed in the short term, while a second could be developed closer to 2026.

A number of sites have been identified for the first car park. Challenge Block near Hatherton Street is the preferred option but another is to redevelop Day Street car park. For the second multi-storey, a site referred to as the 'Intown' off Lichfield Road in the Civic Quarter has been suggested.



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Fridges full of rotten food dumped



Part of the dumped rubbish

FRIDGE freezers with rotten food inside are just part of a fly-tipping mess that has been dumped behind a block of flats in Great Barr.

The rubbish was dumped last week on a drive by garages behind a block of flats on Lingfield Court, which is off Hamstead Road, not far from Sandwell Valley Nature reserve. Two large piles of rubbish – one of them including a filthy mattress, a microwave oven, paint buckets, wood plants and bricks – can be seen from residents' homes.

The second pile, which is about 15 feet away from the first, includes metal furniture rods and a fridge-freezer, which was dumped still containing its contents of pizzas, meat and burgers.

The meat has since started to rot and attract vermin and foxes. A 29-year-old local mother, who asked not to be named, said: "It's disgusting. People seem to think that because this bit of land is away from the road, they can treat it like a rubbish dump and get away with it, but then there's no CCTV here."

"The freezer is particularly unpleasant because the meat that was inside it has started to rot and go mouldy and I've seen and heard the foxes that have been attracted to it. I dare not clear the food away myself as I have a three-year-old and I don't want them exposed to the kind of germs I'd pick up."

Stephen Gabriel, strategic manager

for Regulatory Services, at Sandwell Council urged people to contact police with any information. He said: "This is another highly irresponsible and illegal incident of dumping which is rightly condemned by local residents who find it upsetting to find this kind of rubbish left by their homes."

It is the latest pile of rubbish to blight the streets of Sandwell. Council chiefs launched a fresh crackdown on fly-tipping across the borough last summer after the clean-up bill topped £180,000 in 12 months.

Bosses insisted that they were committed to investigating all cases to trace culprits and bring those responsible to court.

Pervert in assault on child gets four years

A FORMER child carer who forced a young child's hand against his genitals while he sat in a pushchair at Willenhall market has been jailed for four years.

Patrick Marston, of Rose Hill Gardens, in the town targeted the victim at around 9am on June 24 last year.

The 59-year-old fled the scene when he saw a member of the public had noticed him, but the child's mother gave chase and took a picture of him using a mobile phone.

Within half-an-hour police arrested him discovering his trouser zip was still undone, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

A police raid carried out later at his home revealed the true extent of Marston's twisted fantasies.

Officers discovered soiled nappies he had collected from the street, a dictaphone with a recording of a baby crying on it and 17 indecent images of children.

Inciting

During police interviews Marston laid bare the true extent of his sexual desires, which included a fantasy to abduct and sexually assault a child. He admitted a charge of causing or inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity, telling police 'he needed help', the court heard.

Passing a sentence of four years imprisonment and a further three years on licence, Judge James Burbridge QC described the case as one of the most 'sad', 'worrying' and 'difficult' the court had faced.

Psychiatric and psychological reports revealed Marston had a 'troubled' and 'horrid' childhood, which the judge conceded may have ultimately led to his fantasies and offending.

Judge Burbridge said: "You had kept the lid on the problems you had but unfortunately in June of last year the lid was well and truly off. I can't be satisfied your mere presence in court has put the lid back on because you acted in broad daylight without any inhibition towards a child right in front of the mother."

"Because of the other factors the police found, what you had in your home, in my judgement you had lost all inhibitions at that stage. The risk of re-offending is high."

Ex-student building her reputation



Assistant site manager, Claire Brittain, who has been awarded as Rising Star at the Women in Construction Awards

A FORMER Walsall College student was presented with a prestigious award at a ceremony to celebrate the work of women who work in construction.

Claire Brittain, was presented with the Rising Star honour at the 2016 Women in Construction Awards. Her fascination with construction started when she was aged 15 and her parents were getting an extension built.

She now works as an assistant site manager at BAM Construction. Claire said: "I feel really flattered to have received this award as there were a lot of nominees short-

listed. I hope that I can help me be a good role model to other females considering entering the construction industry."

"It shows that you can be a woman, have children – and have a career in construction. It's important that if women want to get into the construction industry, they follow their dream and let nothing stand in their way! I often forget I'm sometimes the only female out on site and my colleagues fully accept me based on my skills."

In between having her two children, she enrolled on to a Level 3 BTEC in Construction and the

Built Environment course at Walsall College, before landing the job she had always wanted with BAM, who sponsored her to complete her Level 4 Higher National Certificate.

Her first project at BAM was working on the redevelopment of the Barclaycard Arena (formerly the NIA) in Birmingham. She has also most recently completed the works at the Royal Shakespeare Company's The Other Place development in Stratford-upon-Avon.

She said: "BAM are a fantastic company to work for and I receive exceptional training and support."

Joy for club as archery equipment is recovered

STOLEN equipment from an archery club in Walsall was found by one of its members at a car boot sale in Cannock.

Over £2,500 worth of specialist equipment was stolen from Broadway West playing fields in Palfrey where Victory Walsall Archers' train.

West Midlands Police launched an appeal for information after 22 adults and children's bows and quivers were stolen between April 2 and 3. But, by amazing coincidence, a member of the club, Ansar Aslam, which is run by volunteers, spotted some of the stolen loot at a car boot sale in Cannock on Sunday April 10 and immediately called police.

Ashraf Lorgat, from Caldmore, who set up the club two years ago, said the club would have had to have folded if none of the bows were returned. Now, the 35-year-old hopes the club will get back to the training ground, weather permitting. He said: "We were looking to close it following the theft and after two years of hard work going into the club it was something we didn't want to do."

"My family wasn't too sure what I was going to do when they went missing because I was out of it for a few days."

"We just don't want the thieves to win and we can continue with the equipment that we've got for now."

Out of the specialist equipment that was stolen, approximately 10 of the stolen 22 bows were found and reunited with the rightful owner on Tuesday.

A man has been voluntarily interviewed in connection with the incident, but no arrests have been made as of yet.

99p Stores boost Poundland sales

THE Willenhall-based Poundland single price stores group says sales were up 17.9 per cent to £1.31 billion for the year to March 27.

So far 190 conversions of shops added by the acquisition of 99p Stores have been completed and the programme will finish at the end of this month, well ahead of plan.

In the final quarter total sales increased by 29.8 per cent to £330.8m on a constant currency basis, benefiting from the addition of the 99p Stores' portfolio.

Including new store openings, the acquired 99p Stores estate and the firm's interest in Spain, 336 gross stores have been added to Poundland's portfolio in the last 12 months, increasing the estate by 57 per cent to 906 including 843 in the UK.

Fire at junction box cuts homes' power

AROUND 200 homes were affected after a fire to a junction box in Walsall. Fire crews had to deal with the blaze at Stapleford Croft, Druids Heath, which knocked power out of the homes. The incident happened on Sunday, shortly before 8am.

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Students get taste of work in sessions

ACADEMIES in Walsall are giving students food for thought through a series of special advice and guidance sessions to help introduce them to the world of work.

Five local academies – Willenhall E-Act Academy, Bloxwich Academy, Joseph Leekie Academy, Ormiston Sheffield Community Academy and Blue Coat Academy – have joined forces with Walsall Council Children's Services and the Borough's Education Business Partnership (EBP).

The initiative has been introduced to help students understand the world of work and training events will encourage them to gain the right experience, skills and a 'can do' attitude that make them the best candidates for the job. The first event held at Willenhall E-Act Academy last month, was well-received and proved popular with students. David Haley, executive director of Walsall Children's Services said: "These Advice and Guidance sessions help students make the right decisions about their future.

"Making the right choices early on in the young person's educational journey gives them an achievable goal, leads to better career options and enhanced life choices.

"It's important that young people have context of where their choices can lead them. At this stage in their

Axe for change of offices into flats

PLANS to convert an office building into dozens of homes to the south of Walsall town centre have been axed.

An application had been submitted by the British Jewish Heritage Society to change the use of Bath House in St Matthew's ward.

The plans would have seen the Bath Street property transformed into 40 apartments.

The bid had only been entered to Walsall Council in early March but the authority's planning listings confirm the proposal has been withdrawn. No reason was given by the Heritage Society for the withdrawal. Walsall Council confirmed the plan would not go ahead.

Pensioner's car flips after crash

A 70-YEAR-OLD woman was trapped in her car after it rolled over on its roof. The vehicle hit a parked car and flipped at around 10.15am on Monday on Coronation Road, Pelsall.

She was assisted by an off-duty firefighter who was in the area at the time, who tried to stabilise her in the overturned blue Skoda. Around 10 firefighters from Aldridge and Bloxwich attended the crash and cut the casualty free. It appears she escaped serious injuries but was sent to hospital to be checked over.



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Fair pair get ready for their big day



Brodie Lovatt, and Gracie Bracknall

The queen and princess of the Rushall May Fair have been chosen, ready to rule over next month's event.

Queen Brodie Lovatt, aged 10, and Princess Gracie Bracknall, eight, were excited to be picked as this year's royal pair. Organiser Sue Blakemore said: "They were absolutely delighted to be chosen. Brodie was leaping around and screaming and Gracie couldn't believe it. She was astounded.

"They were thrilled at the chance to have their photograph taken, despite the fact we had to dodge the showers.

"They'll arrive at the fair in a lim-

ousine, they'll be crowned and then get to meet everybody. They've also won a photo day, so they'll be able to have something to remember it all with."

Brodie and Gracie were picked on April 2 at Rushall Library. Their names were picked out of a hat by the librarian and a member of the public.

Sue said: "It's the easiest way of picking them and we're not exploiting the girls by having some kind of pageant, which we don't think is appropriate." The 16th Rushall May Fair is gearing up to be one of the biggest

yet, with a variety of charity stalls, games and activities to explore.

The May 2 event will begin at 10.30am, with a formal opening at 11am.

As well as the yearly classic car show, there'll be other events including the Army Cadets A Company Corp of Drumming, Staffordshire Men folk group and The Misfortunes vintage singers.

There are a limited number of private stalls still available to those that want to sell things on the day. For details, contact Sue on 01922 442956.

8,500 remain on waiting list for home in borough

MORE than 8,500 people are on a waiting list for a home in Walsall as the borough struggles to keep up with an ever-increasing demand for housing.

There are 8,644 people waiting to move into social housing, with Walsall Housing Group selling off more than 350 properties since 2013 under the Government's Right To Buy scheme.

Other properties were sold due to their condition and the investment needed to bring them back into occupation.

The figures have been called 'very worrying' by a councillor who claims that 237 homes built by the housing association since 2013 'hardly scratches the surface'.

Councillor Pete Smith, who represents the Blakenall Ward, said: "It is a very worrying situation where thousands of individuals and families who feel that they are presently inadequately housed are filling up WHG's waiting list. Whilst new WHG properties are being built at affordable rents in my ward the number of new builds is all the time being offset by the sale of homes by WHG.

Deteriorate

"WHG are doing a very good job there, however, this is only beginning to scratch the surface when one considers that nearly 9,000 are on their housing waiting lists. With regard to WHG auctioning off properties in need of a great deal of money needing to be spent on them, it begs the question as to how they can let a minority of their properties deteriorate to such a level."

In September 2015, bosses at WHG pledged to continue to build more social housing, despite concerns that Government cuts could have an adverse affect on the groups ability to do so.

The group is committed to building 2,000 homes by March 2018. On the sale of properties, Robert Gilham, director of operations, said when tenants leave, the property is reviewed and if it requires substantial modernisation works, a value for money assessment is carried out.

"In each of these cases it was not economical to carry out the works required given the relatively low rents we are then able to set," he said. "Monies raised from the sale of these is recycled into new development."

Memorial bench for tragic Jamie



The Jamie Cartwright memorial bench installed at Walsall Arboretum



A close-up view of the plaque



Jamie Cartwright, seen in 2012

THE family of tragic youngster Jamie Cartwright have paid a 'fitting tribute' to him by installing a bench with a special plaque in his memory at Walsall Arboretum.

Jamie, who lived in Rischale Way, Rushall, twice beat leukaemia before picking up an infection, which led to his death in January 2014, aged just nine. His heartbroken parents John and Vicki Cartwright also planted an oak tree sapling in tribute to their son at the arboretum, near to the skateboard park where he loved to perform stunts.

Since then, his family have been raising money to get a memorial bench put in place at the park. Jamie's uncle, Danny Loundes, aged 34, from Bloxwich, said: "Getting on the skate park and doing tricks with his scooter was what Jamie enjoyed most in life. We have always wanted to get a bench set up for him and the location is perfect."

Jamie was first diagnosed with leukaemia in 2006 when he was two. After chemotherapy he went into remission. But two days after Christmas in 2012, his family was told the condition was back.

Jamie endured more bouts of chemotherapy before undergoing a bone marrow transplant, thanks to his 14-year-old brother Aaron. Jamie was given the all-clear from leukaemia but caught an infection that spread to his brain, and on August 7, 2014, his family was told he had suffered a brain haemorrhage.

He died a few hours later. The family have now raised around £14,000 for Acorns Hospice, which provided care for Jamie in his final days.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scouts in appeal on camping gear

THE First Bloxwich Scouts Group has appealed for camping equipment.

The group is run by volunteers and boasts having youngsters aged from five to 18 on its books, however the vital equipment that is so crucial to a scout's way of life is starting to age noticeably.

Club scout leader Chantelle Elks said: "Getting new camping gear would be a major help. Any funding will benefit the children we have now and those who will join us in the future." The Scouts can be contacted on 01922 514140.

Pub to make way for 30 new homes

PLANS for 30 homes on the site of a former pub in Willenhall have been approved.

The former Cavalcade pub site on Stroud Avenue has been derelict since approximately 2009.

Developers Aspire want to build 15 three and four bedroom homes and 15 one and two bedroom flats.

A design and access statement prepared by Stoneleigh Architectural Services on behalf of Aspire said: "It is felt that the provision of the residential units will provide a welcome boost

Bagrock's in the pipeline at Robin

A SCOTTISH band who proved that even the bagpipes can rock are coming to a venue in the Black Country.

The Red Hot Chili Pipers – have a gig at Bilston's Robin 2 on Tuesday.

The group, which performs 'bagrock' won TV talent show When Will I Be Famous? and have played at festivals including T In The Park and the BBC Proms in Hyde Park.

Tickets cost £22 on the door (£20 advance) at the Mount Pleasant venue, Call 01902 401211.

Choir celebrates its 40th with show

THE Ellenvale Singers will be performing a 40th anniversary concert in Brierley Hill next month.

The choir is singing in Brierley Hill Civic Hall on May 11 at 7.30pm.

Tickets for the concert are £7.50 for adults and £3.50 for children from 01384 451837. For further information visit the choir's website at www.ellenvalesingers.org or find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/theellenvalesingers

Roadworks on way

ROADWORKS could cause disruption next week as a road is shut off. Tasker Street in Walsall will be closed from 8am until 5pm on April 25. The road will be closed between the junction of Midland Road and Woodcutter Close, making half of the street inaccessible.

A diversion will be set up using Tasker Street, through the busy Wednesbury Road and back up Meadow Street.

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"WHAT'S an ansadoo?" Question asked by a reader's small child on first hearing the song: "Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do"

THE Lib-Dems are campaigning to save Britain's surviving 3,000 launderettes from redevelopment. A reader says it's only spin.

HERE'S a prediction for the 21st century. Before long, in the endless, unchallenged quest to know everything about everything, geneticists will unveil the first DNA map of the entire UK population. Our family trees will be unveiled in vast strands stretching back many generations and, for the first time, we will know exactly who is related to whom. And, boy will there be some surprises. If it can happen to the Archbishop of Canterbury . . .

SUMMER approaches, the garden goes mad. So, on a whim and for the first time in many years, I tuned into The Archers, just to see if they had any topical horticultural tips. Not a chance. It seems to be mostly about killing imperfect husbands. I'm not angry. I'm just disappointed. . . .

JEREMY Corbyn, who voted against the Common Market in 1975 and against the Lisbon Treaty, is trying to convince the British people that he really, really supports the EU now. If nothing else, Jez is giving our fellow Europeans a lesson in colloquial English by demonstrating that useful term "luke warm".



SO who was the villain and whose vested interests were being served by this week's disclosure that Tory media minister John Whittingdale went out with a dominatrix? Was it the pressure group Hacked Off, out to take a newspaper scalp? Was it the wicked Press, out to blackmail the minister? Or was it the BBC, eager to pile on pressure to keep the TV licence? This is an issue involving that old concept "the public interest." But the real public interest, the question that will not go away, the burning issue that Joe Public wants answering, is nothing to do with the Beeb, the Press or Hacked Off. It is simply this: How do you go out with a woman for six months and not know she is a dominatrix? I think we should be told.

IT is a golden rule of television that you cannot make a programme about Britain without forcing some hapless presenter to stand on a terrifyingly high white cliff and induce anxiety in the viewing public. Sure enough, the Beeb's political guru Nick Robinson was plonked a few feet from oblivion for Europe: Them Or Us (BBC2). Having survived cancer it would have been ironic if Robinson got blown off Beachy Head.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Pot of cash 'not enough for holes'

GOVERNMENT funding to repair potholes will 'not even scratch the surface' in Walsall, it has been claimed. Walsall Council will receive £140,000 from the Government as part of £50 million being dished out across the country for maintenance work on local highways, called the Pothole Action Fund.

The borough is blighted by 2,642 potholes according to latest figures.

Yet it will get less than every other area across the Black Country except for Wolverhampton, which will receive just £110,000.

Willenhall councillor Ian Shires claims the money will not sufficiently help Walsall, which is already set to see funding for road and car park maintenance slashed by 10 per cent under money saving council plans.

Councillor Shires said: "When you

look at the state of the local roads it is clear that this money is not even going to scratch the surface. £140,000 would probably struggle to cover my ward alone.

"In Willenhall we have a lot of long roads in really bad condition, these are used every day by so many people and they can't get better without funding."

The West Midlands has been given

£512,491 to help maintain and repair the roads in their areas including fixing potholes.

While Walsall and Wolverhampton sit at the bottom of the pile in terms of money available in the Black Country, Dudley tops the list with £172,000, followed by Sandwell, which will receive £160,000.

The money has been allocated according to a needs-based formula.

Support for schools criticised by Ofsted

Report by Carl Jackson

OFSTED has declared that Walsall Council's support for schools is still not good enough with one in four establishments across the borough falling below the required standard.

The Government watchdog stated that in particular disadvantaged students and pupils with special needs were not improving as they should.

Despite the report which declared a 'great deal' of work was required the council has stated it is 'pleased' with the current state of affairs because they have improved from the last inspection in 2014 when the authority's support was branded 'ineffective'.

Ofsted visited nine schools in the borough during February and released their findings last Wednesday. The report states: "Improvements to school performance and pupils' achievement are uneven across Walsall.

"Only 75 per cent of schools in Walsall are good or better, and this compares with a national average of 85 per cent. "Some schools are not improving quickly enough and too many pupils, particularly the disadvantaged and those who have special educational needs or disability, are not achieving well enough."

The council maintains control of 92 schools out of 121 in Walsall. David Haley, Executive Director of Children's Services said: "We are very pleased with the Ofsted report of the council's work to support school improvement across Walsall.

"The report rightly reflects the hard work and commitment of local authority officers, headteachers, governors and school staff.

"It sets out the good improvement and progress that has been made and acknowledges that there is more to do to ensure that all children and young people of Walsall attend a good school, are ambitious and leave school with a good education. It also notes that we are not complacent and have the strategies in place."

Worker Alan gets a lift for his 50 years



Alan Boylin celebrates his 50 years, getting a lift from work colleagues Jason Watkins and Dan Billings

HE has seen hundreds of colleagues come and go – and has been a constant friendly face for five decades.

Now Alan Boylin has celebrated a fantastic 50 years working at the same Great Barr firm. He was presented with a gold watch by bosses at Bailey and Mackey in Great Barr to mark the achievement. The 65-year-old from Newton Gardens has been with the company, which manufactures high quality pressure instruments, since he was a 15-year-old youngster, starting an apprenticeship on April 13, 1966.

He has worked in all kinds of roles, beginning in operational jobs to becoming a chargehand, foreman and now holds the title of machine shop supervisor. He has seen seven directors come and go but watched as the company

has grown from a 'shed', as he described it, to a huge factory which has just bought another property in Walsall.

Alan said: "It's been a journey that's almost come full circle. I do plan to slow down a little bit over the next few months, and will start to take Fridays off which will be nice. One thing that has dramatically changed since I started is the machinery used, it has just developed so much over the years. I'm happy now to have two gold watches, as I had one presented to me for my 25th anniversary." Alan is now looking forward to taking his two grandsons on holiday in August and in October will be visiting his sister in Australia.

He was married for 37 years to Rose, who sadly passed away in 2010. They have one son, Craig aged 41.

Publishing advice is at hand with PR expert

HELP is at hand for anyone in Walsall with aspirations of forwarding themselves in business or in the world of publishing.

Entertainment PR chief Diane Hinds will be bringing her campaign to help empower the aspiring, small or self published writer with two talks taking place at Walsall Library next month.

The free admission talks on May 12 start with An Introduction To Public Relations 11am, followed by How To Promote Your Book at 4pm.

For further information visit: www.twitter.com/WalsallLibrary, Facebook: [LoveWalsallLibraries](http://www.LoveWalsallLibraries) or visit its website at www.lovelibrarieswalsall.co.uk.

In a career that has encompassed international talent such as Aretha Franklin, opera singer Lesley Garrett CBE, Whitney Houston, The Four Tops, Jack Jones, Jermaine Jackson and many others, Diane has built her reputation on the promotion of quality and distinguished talent.

Her writer representation includes John Stanley and international and New York Times bestselling writer Anne Perry.

Diane has devised and produced a series of instructional writing films for her client Anne Perry.

The first, Put Your Heart On The Page: An Introduction To Writing is released and available on Amazon.com.

The second – Plotting To Enrich Your Back Story was launched last autumn.

Youngsters get travel advice

STUDENTS at Walsall Academy have found out more about the importance of looking after the environment following their attendance at a sustainability session.

The day of discussion and debate saw pupils learn about sustainable tourism – a concept based around making a positive impact on the environment, society and economy whilst travelling.

As part of the day, students spent some time considering the impact of their transport methods, accommodation and entertainment, along with the food and drink they might be consuming – all from the point of view of being on their holidays.

The event was hosted by holidays firm The Midcounties Co-operative Travel.

Working men's club plans withdrawn

PLANS to replace a working men's club with 35 flats have been withdrawn. Birchill's Liberal Club was set to be demolished, along with an adjacent house, under plans. However, they have now been withdrawn by developers Northmill Associates.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hunt begins to find Verdun oaks

AN appeal has been launched to identify oak trees in Walsall which have ties to the First World War.

Walsall Councillor Doug James, who is also a member of the Woodland Trust, wants to locate any Verdun Oaks in the borough. They were named after the Battle of Verdun in France, one of the largest confrontations between the Allies and German forces spanning more than 300 days.

It is hoped if trees are found locally acorns can start a second generation. Councillor James said: "The Battle of Verdun was the longest single battle of the First World War, claiming 400,000 men. Although the British forces never fought at Verdun reminders of the conflict adorn our towns.

"Acorns from the devastated battlefields were shipped to the UK where this smallest of gestures created the grandest tributes – mighty oaks growing tall and proud as a lasting memorial to those who died on the Western Front."

Snub speed signs 'at your peril'

IGNORE new speed detecting signs nearing completion 'at your peril'.

That is the message from a community leader over two signs, which recognise number plates and record the speed of motorists, set up near the community green in New Invention and on Lichfield Road.

Councillor Ian Shires said: "These signs have been used with great effect elsewhere in the borough. Disregard them at your peril." Other works carried out already include safety markings on the approaches to both the Poles Lane and Gate traffic islands.

Elderly woman in collision with bus

AN elderly woman suffered a head injury after she was involved in a collision with a university bus in Walsall town centre. The incident happened around 12.20pm last Wednesday outside of St Paul's Bus Station.

The pedestrian, in her 70s, was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Police immediately closed off St Paul's Street and cordoned of the bus belonging to University of Wolverhampton.

Not fair weather with cancellation

A FUNFAIR that was set to take place in Willenhall was cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

The organisers Wilson's decided that after inspection the condition of the ground at Memorial Park in Pinson Road was too wet.

It was set to run from Thursday until Saturday last week. They are hoping to reschedule the funfair for May 5 to 7 but the new dates have not yet been confirmed. It will feature rides for adults and children.

Bus driver is latest on wee wall of shame



The urinating National Express worker

A NATIONAL Express bus driver is the latest culprit to be snapped spending a penny by Walsall Twitter sensation Urine Watch.

The driver, who is pictured clearly in his high visibility jacket with the National Express logo, has been shamed on social media. Twitter account @urinewatch posted a video to its page around 10.45am on Thursday. The video, which lasts 20 seconds, was taken from a CCTV camera.

It shows the male driver walking up to the popular spot, looking around to check no-one had spotted him before

relieving himself next to the now infamous welcome sign. The incident is believed to have happened at 6.40am on Thursday morning.

When contacted by a reporter, National Express said they took incidents such as these 'very seriously' and were carrying out an investigation to try and identify the individual.

A spokesman for the firm said: "We take matters of unacceptable behaviour very seriously. We are currently in the process of investigating this incident to identify the individual."

Since the tweet was put up, it has

been liked once and retweeted once, with one Twitter user telling the account to show the footage to National Express. Urine Watch has been shaming public urinators for a number of weeks now.

It posts CCTV images of yobs urinating in a car park of the former M Latif and Sons in Bradford Street. The account was set up by Chris Norton who runs Norton Podiatry next door. Mr Norton said incidents had gone down: "It used to be four of five times a day but now it is only one or two and it comes in spurts."

Career crook avoids jail for 197th offence

A CAREER crook once dubbed 'the scourge of West Midlands gym goers' has avoided jail for the latest of his 197 offences.

Lee Lynch, aged 52, was previously jailed for 56 weeks for raiding gym lockers at Walsall's Gala Baths where he stole items from the bags of schoolchildren on a swimming lesson.

The crook was also handed a criminal anti-social behaviour order banning him from every gym and leisure centre in the West Midlands. But following his latest raid on a home in Solihull, the grandad was handed a suspended sentence by a judge in order to help him kick his 37-year drug habit.

Birmingham Crown Court heard the father-of-five had been out of prison for just three weeks last November before he stole a £900 bike which he then tried to sell for three wraps of drugs and a packet of cigarettes.

Lynch, who had 196 previous offences dating back to 1979, walked into a maisonette on Ballard Walk, Kingshurst, on November 26 and emptied a store cupboard of children's toys in order to get to the bike. He was later caught on CCTV entering his own home on Chilvers Grove with the bike and arrested.

Rehabilitation

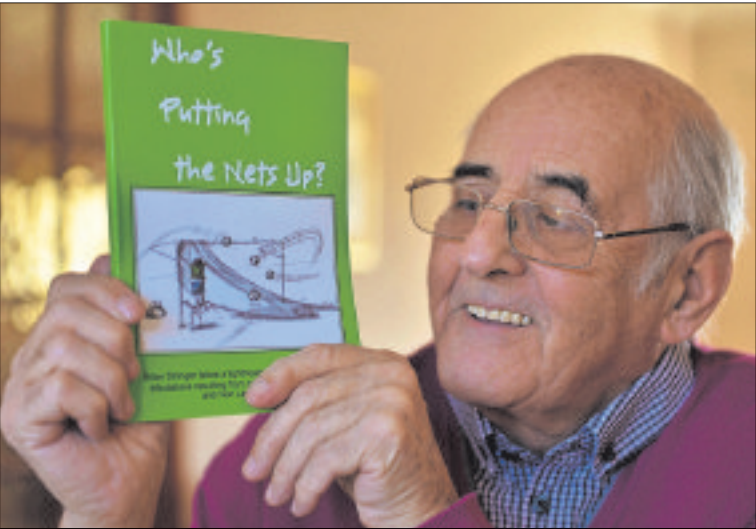
Lynch pleaded guilty to burglary. But hearing the addict had never received help to kick his drug habit, Judge Nicholas Cole handed Lynch an 18-month jail term suspended for 18 months. He was also ordered to undergo drug rehabilitation and to attend court every month with a progress report.

Sparing Lynch a further spell behind bars the judge said: "You are a family man with five children and grandchildren. The time is going to have to come when you stop offending and it's up to you, to an extent, when that time is. Bouncing in and out of custody has to come to an end." Mr John Brotherton, defending, said despite the length of his record Lynch had never been made subject of a drug rehabilitation requirement to help him kick his habit.

He said when Lynch was released in November, following a theft of a projector from a hotel conference suite last August, the addict had no methadone prescription waiting for him.

Ordering Lynch to comply with the court's orders, Judge Cole added: "The court will review your progress. You will have this hanging over you, this is not a soft option."

Brian nets his football memories



Brian Stringer, of Park Close, Brownhills, with the book he has written about amateur and junior football

THAT first question on every amateur footballer's lips when they turn up to the game on Sunday morning – 'So who's putting the nets up?' Brian Stringer spent decades in Walsall dedicated his time to managing and supporting grassroots and junior football.

And now, to commemorate the years, the 77-year-old, from Brownhills, has answered that question by putting together a book featuring everything you need to know about the net so beautiful side of the game.

Aptly titled Who's Putting the Nets Up is the third book written by Brian, who started managing junior football teams in 1975 before ending up as the chairman of Walsall Wood in the 1980s.

He said his book is perfect for anyone associated or interested with amateur football: "I wrote another couple of books this is my third, we read about the big sporting stars so I thought it was time the amateur clubs got a look in."

"So this book is about my junior football and non league days. I all

started in 1975 with a junior team in Clayhanger where I grew up. Anybody who has been involved with non league or junior football can identify with this book.

"It's got a load of different stories in there. At one club we broke a world record when we had a lad break two legs in about thirty seconds – it was reported in the Express & Star and I've got the cuttings." The book is available to purchase for £6 behind the bar at Walsall Wood Football Club and at Brownhills Library.

Blood spots at bookshop after window is smashed

TRACES of blood were discovered at a Walsall book store which had its front window smashed in a bizarre act of vandalism. Nothing appears to have been taken from Southcart Books on Lower Hall Lane after it was seemingly targeted.

The owners had a bill to replace the window which was discovered broken on Sunday April 10.

Last Monday forensic police officers were at the shop taking samples and as yet it is still unknown whether the glass was smashed deliberately or whether the shop front was the scene of a Saturday night scuffle.

Amy Carter who works at the shop and is partner of owner Scott Southey, said: "We have have had one of the windows smashed but nothing was taken. We have had the police around on Monday because a lot of blood was left behind. The forensics came and took swabs from the windows. I don't know how it happened. It was my birthday Sunday and my son discovered it as he was walking past. Scott went straight down and boarded it up. There was glass everywhere.

"The window which was broken led into our vintage book room. Nothing has been damaged inside though."

She added: "I don't know how much it will cost yet to replace the window, we are trying to sort it out now. We haven't had a break-in as such before but we have had a couple of purses stolen." West Midlands Police requested that anyone with information on the incident contact them on 101.

Crucial water works started

RESIDENTS in Willenhall are having to put up with eight weeks of crucial water works which started on Monday. Severn Trent water will carry out work on a 'major water main renewal scheme' at Lucknow Road.

Councillor Ian Shires, who represents the area, has admitted that while the work is needed, it shines a light on the need for more to be done to improve roads across Walsall.

He said: "Just when the residents of Lucknow Road thought that their lives might get back to normal in steps Severn Trent with this announcement. Perhaps once all this has been done Walsall Council will resurface both roads along with Essington Road, Coppice Lane, roads on the Broadway Estate, Beacon Estate and many more, however I can't see it happening."

Lifeboat charity funds top £250

MEMBERS of the Walsall Branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution collected £266.64 in Walsall. Phil Martin, the honorary treasurer, said: "The Branch wishes to thank the kind people of Walsall for supporting us."

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Pavement parking protest is pathetic

YOU might think with the EU referendum and all the other rows going on at the moment, that the Government had got its hands pretty full and didn't really need to involve itself with any other distractions.

But no, give anybody in authority the chance to meddle, and they will take it with both hands. The latest wheeze is to ban us from parking on the kerb, to 'de-clutter' our roads and encourage more people to walk. Yep, that's just what the country is crying out for, isn't it?

I always thought decluttering was what Carol Smillie did on those awful decorating shows in the 1990s. But it seems the powers-that-be are offended by the sight of our cars being parked on the pavement. Presumably they hope issuing a few tickets will see us all happily get rid of them and cheerfully march to work singing The Internationale.

The ban on kerb parking is to bring us into line with London, where it has been prohibited for the past 40 years. But of course, getting around the capital is easy, because they have an underground railway. Does anybody in Westminster realise we don't actually have that luxury? Here's a better way to declutter our roads. Build wider ones with more parking.

THERE has been much consternation about the fact that Wolves' new sponsor next season will be payday loans company Money Shop. Perhaps, while they're about it, it might be time to change the motto on the badge. Out of darkness cometh debt, anyone?

STILL, the murmurings surrounding Wolves are nothing compared to the discontent around my club, Aston Villa.

Former winger Steve Froggatt contrasted the highly-paid players who have failed so dismally this season with the plight of the modestly-paid stadium staff who now face losing their jobs because of the team's slide into what I still call the Second Division.

Froggie suggested that the superannuated players could redeem themselves by donating a share of their salaries to save the jobs of the club staff.

To me this sounded an eminently sensible suggestion, but I can't see it happening given that £9m midfielder Idrissa Geuye is already demanding a transfer, saying that relegation wasn't part of the agreement, while the terminally mediocre Leandro Bacuna thinks he should be playing in the Champions League rather than the Championship.

Still, captain Joleon Lescott says seeing the humiliation confirmed was a weight off his shoulders.

So every cloud has a silver lining. Dozens of ordinary working people face losing their jobs, the club will suffer the indignity of playing at a level they last endured in 1988. But still, Joleon now feels able to relax.



Terror victims, Patrick Evans, Joel Richards and Adrian Evans



The logo for the charity Smile for Joel, to help victims' families



Owen, who lost his brother in the attack, with the wristbands

We want their names to never be forgotten

An inspirational mother and son have set up a charity to help families hit by atrocities. **DAVID COSGROVE reports**

'I WANT their names and beautiful caring ways to live on forever through their legacy.'

These were the words of a Black Country mother whose son, brother and father were killed in the Tunisia terror attack, as she launched an appeal to support other victims of mass atrocities.

Suzu Richards and her surviving son Owen, aged 16, have created 'Smile for Joel' to support others who have lost family members in a similarly harrowing manner to themselves.

The fundraising charity – which has been backed by David Cameron – will work with Victim Support to help families who have become victims of traumatic bereavement, particularly through homicide.

Ms Richards said it will help keep the memories of her son Joel, brother Adrian and father Patrick alive, who were killed by Islamic State terrorist Seifeddine Rezgui in June.

Previous

Aspiring football referee Joel, 19, was tipped for the top and was extremely close with his uncle and grandfather.

The triple loss tore Ms Richards' family apart, but she said the backing of Victim Support since the tragic incident has helped them move through the grieving process.

Ms Richards said: "I had never heard of [Victim Support] before but they turned up about five days after it happened and the support they gave Owen initially was fantastic.

"Since then the support for the family has been brilliant as well – and they are still supporting us now.

"In the darkest days they actually became part of the family – they were with us through everything and helped with everything, right down to arranging counselling.

"What they do is fantastic.



David Cameron, who backed the wristbands scheme, seen with Suzy and Owen Richards

"We decided to call it Smile for Joel because Joel was the youngest victim and I want to keep all their names alive.

"I want to make a difference for others for them.

"They were three of the nicest, most caring guys you could ever meet and would do anything for anybody.

"I want their names to be part of helping others.

"They were just three everyday guys who went on holiday who were sat there one minute and then they were murdered the next."

Dozens of Joel's friends have taken photographs with Smile for Joel wristbands at different locations across the globe.

Ms Richards penned an emotive mission statement on Smile for Joel's Facebook page.

It says: "After losing three very precious family members last year in the Tunisian ter-

ror attacks my loving family will never be the same. We are shattered, broken and every day is a colossal struggle for not having them here with us.

"To go from a family of six to three for just going on holiday, is an unbearable pain and has left an emptiness that we know will never go away. In the midst of this heartache I am determined to stand strong for my remaining family.

"Like any mom would, I want to strive to make Owen's life the best I can, especially after being the sole survivor in my family on that fateful day.

"I am also determined to not let the lives of my son Joel, my dad Pat and my brother Ade be forgotten. I want their names and beautiful caring ways to live on forever.

"I want to make a difference to others for them.

"I want to make a difference in their name for others who have experienced losing someone they love in such a heartbreaking traumatic way.

"Therefore, Smile for Joel in its own right will become a fundraising charity to support Victim Support and help shattered/ broken families who become victims of a traumatic bereavement through homicide including terrorism.

"Not every family has the love and support we have had and continue to have from our family, friends and our community and I thank you all immensely for that.

"So together, with your help, my plan is to continue to make smiles for Joel."

The money will be distributed through Victim Support.

Ms Richards has encouraged people to come forward with fundraising schemes.

A batch of Smile for Joel wristbands has been made and people have been encouraged to take photos of these at different locations around the world.

Astonished

Wednesday North ward Councillor Elaine Costigan said the family's strength was 'inspirational' and Smile for Joel was a perfect way to keep memories alive.

She said: "I'm just astonished at how strong she is.

"I think this is really helping to keep Suzy going and I know how much she wants to keep their names alive.

"It's special – I think both Suzy and Owen are inspirational.

"They're so strong together, it's amazing. I don't know where they find the strength from but somehow they manage it.

"We all support whatever they want to do."

The families of those killed in the Tunisia terror attacks attended a memorial service at Westminster Abbey along with Prince Harry and Prime Minister David Cameron.

At an event after the service, Owen managed to chat to Mr Cameron about the cause, and the PM was photographed with the teen and Ms Richards wearing one of the wristbands created for the cause,

Anyone who wants to raise cash for the charity is asked to email smileforjoel@aol.com.

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Vote is a testament to our democracy

WHAT a wonderful honour and privilege it is to live in a country where, unlike so many places we see and hear about in this age of superfast communication, democracy rules and our say actually makes a difference to the way we live. Or is it?

I am frequently asked by friends, family and, more annoyingly, total strangers, "will you be voting in or out in the referendum?" My answer is always a perfectly honest "How the hell should I know if the country as a whole will be better off leaving the EU". The knee jerk reaction from the vast major-

ity of Joe Public (of which I am a proud fully paid up member) will undoubtedly be to stick two fingers up to the EU and vote to leave. Just for the sheer hell of it. Joe Public has no concrete evidence of whether it will be a good or bad thing for industry, jobs or commerce if we leave. The commercial conundrum of leaving the EU is so complex it is, to me anyway, unfathomable. Perhaps some areas of industry and commerce will suffer badly and some will benefit. Perhaps, once we leave, the remaining EU countries will make it more difficult for us to trade with them out of

spite! Whereas, if we stay, they will assume they have us where they want us and any future negotiations will be carnage against Britain.

What will be my vote? Not a clue. Soon, being in or out of the EU may be the least of our worries.

Who knows in 12 months we could all be in the safe hands of Jeremy Corbyn, Donald Trump, Marine La Pen, Kim Jong-un and Vladimir Putin.

Relax. What's the worst that could happen?

D BRADBURN
Willenhall

Leaving EU would bring instability

BRITAIN would be very foolish to leave the EU because it could lead to massive unemployment and financial instability.

Britain does 50 per cent of its trade with Europe. If we left the EU they could stop buying our products, this would lead to business bankruptcy and unemployed workers.

Also major companies, Nissan (partially-French owned), BMW - German, Honda - Japanese, locate in Britain because we are part of the EU market. If we left they would leave Britain with consequent unemployment in Britain.

They say we should trade worldwide, but would any major country buy our expensive products?

Before we entered the EU our exports were falling mainly because our Commonwealth countries were buying cheaper products from countries other than Britain.

H DAVIES
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

EMAIL

walsall.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

EU rules apply to firms abroad too!

I'LL take just one of the curious assertions in the letter from UKIP activist Paul Woodridge. Brexit would mean that 'our small and medium businesses will be liberated from endless and costly regulation'.

Two questions: First, what 'regulations' does Woodridge mean? Perhaps the requirement in the Working Time Directive that workers have paid holiday is too 'costly'.

Secondly, if EU regulation is a problem for small and medium businesses, why do they flourish in many EU countries? If I want to have a coffee in Walsall, I go to one of the branches of Costa, and if I'm feeling a bit poorly I go to Boots or Lloyds. In a similarly-sized Italian city I go to one of many independent bars or pharmacists. If EU regulation were the problem for such businesses, it would surely be equally problematic in all other countries.

For 30 years, successive British governments have decided making things doesn't matter. The present lot don't inspire much confidence, for all Osborne's chirping about the northern powerhouse. Sadly Blair and Brown did nothing to reverse this, but I have faith in Jeremy Corbyn's commitment to manufacturing and well-paid skilled jobs.

A T HARRISON
Walsall

Not appy to be given a parking fine

ON January 29, I parked my car using the on-street parking in Holt Street, Birmingham.

The signage said the area was 'pay and display' but also used the exact wording 'pay by phone' to indicate that you had this option. So I used the app 'PayByPhone' on my phone to pay for my parking. I returned to my car to find a PCN notice on the windscreen claiming I was in violation of parking rules and that I had not paid for my parking. Obviously I was exceedingly confused by this as I had my SMS receipt on my phone.

When I contested this via the council's faceless system, I found they do not deal with 'PayByPhone' but use the app 'ParkMobile', although the signs make no reference to either. Being a disabled person and having extremely limited finances, receiving fines such as this is exceptionally worrying, so I wish to alert others.

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Putting stock into art which may be Banksy's



A Brownhills Banksy? A Banksy-esque wall artwork has appeared on Brickiln street, just off High street

DOES the Midlands have its own Banksy copycat? Or could this be the latest offering from the world-renowned graffiti artist?

That is the question on the lips of shopkeepers and passers-by in Brickiln Street, Brownhills, where a mysterious mural has materialised.

While reaction to the piece, which is believed to have been created overnight last Sunday, has been good, some are happier about it than others.

Sharon Shardlow, owner of entertainment shop, We Pay Cash For, in High Street, said: "I think it's fantastic. It's good graffiti. It's well drawn. There's a lot of detail there. It's good for the area. People have been talking about it."

Mark Kay, from Shire Oak, said the graffiti was very striking, adding: "It's brilliant. We've got our very own Brownhills Banksy. The council should leave it where it is. I'm sure they will cover it up, but someone has put a lot of effort into this."

However, Damien Whittaker, who runs Laptop Traders, was less im-

pressed. He said: "I find it a bit weird, to be honest. The way it looks, it's like its possessed or something like that."

Bal Moosan, from Crazy House Furniture, said: "A lot of effort has gone into this picture. I'm trying to understand what he's portraying here though. Even so, you have to have a lot of talent to do something like this."

It is not the first time the sudden appearance of graffiti in the West Midlands has been linked to Banksy. A piece in Sutton Coldfield and Kidderminster has also been attributed to the graffiti artist, whose true identity has never been revealed.



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Walsall Liberal Democrats

Sikhs show their true colours on parade for annual Vaisakhi festival



Part of the procession throughout Willenhall by the Guru Nanak Gurdwara to mark the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi

MORE than 2,000 people celebrated the annual Vaisakhi festival with a procession through Willenhall and Wednesfield.

The sun shone for the proceedings, which were reversed from last year's event, beginning at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara on Walsall Road, Willenhall, at 10am and finishing at the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Well Lane, Wednesfield, three miles away at 1.30pm, with the march annually organised by members from both temples.

In line with tradition, a drummer set the beat at the front of the procession, followed by sword bearers, Khalsa flag bearers and an orange-swathed float carrying the Sikh holy book, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

Roads were closed along the route as people walked through the streets or travelled on floats for the huge parade, which saw five baptised Sikhs dressed in traditional dress lead the way behind a group of sweepers clearing the road for their bare feet.

The main float carried the Sikh holy book while two other floats contained people singing hymns and playing music. Councillor Singh Gakhal, who helps organise the event each year, said the procession to Wednesfield is a hugely successful event. "This year is bigger and better than ever, and I'd predict there are more than the 2,000 people that attended last year."

"Everybody has played such an important role in organising the event, from the police, to local authorities, to those who took part."

The celebration is to commemorate the anniversary of the initiation of the first five members of the brotherhood of the Khalsa, which took place on April 13, 1699, which is one of the most significant dates in Sikh history, as well as ushering spring.

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Tragic biker took cocktail of drugs before collision

A MOTORCYCLIST who had consumed alcohol and taken a cocktail of drugs, lost control of his bike and hit a tree moments after waving at a friend, an inquest heard.

Daniel Stephen Manning, aged 25, was travelling along Springhill Road, Burntwood, on November 8, 2015 after a night out with friends when the accident happened.

At Cannock Coroners Court on Tuesday, Staffordshire (South) Senior Coroner Andrew Haigh gave a conclusion of accidental death, citing the poor condition of the white Shineray motorcycle he was on, the drink and drugs in his body and the fact that he waved to a friend shortly before his death all as contributing factors.

Cause of death was given as a result of multiple injuries.

A toxicology report revealed Mr Manning had 1.2 milligrams of a combination of designer drug MED, cocaine and methadone in his blood along with 173 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of his urine. The legal drink drive limit for alcohol is 107 milligrams in 100 millilitres of urine.

Handlebar

Speaking at the inquest, Mr Manning's friend Ricky Lee Ashcroft, of Morley Road, Burntwood said: "We had all told him the bike would be the death of him and that it was a deathtrap."

Mr Manning's brother Andrew Manning said: "He was just a joy to be around."

Mr Ashcroft described how Mr Manning had passed him on Springhill Road at around 8.45am on the day of his death, lifting his left hand off the handlebar to wave before he lost control of the bike. The bike was not registered and Mr Manning did not have a licence to drive the vehicle though he did have experience of driving motorbikes, the inquest heard. Coroner Haigh said: "As a result of this tragic accident I record a verdict of accidental death."

On the rude to somewhere



These road markings in Walsall have become the butt of many jokes in the town and also on social media

IT'S something a lot of people could be guilty of shouting when they find themselves lost in an area they don't know all that well.

However, these interesting road markings which direct motorists in Walsall towards 'B'lox', will actually lead drivers to the heart of Bloxwich.

Eagle-eyed motorists have spotted the markings which could easily be mistaken for a rude phrase and have shared the photos on social media. It is not clear if the markings are new.

Some people have said that spot-

ting the humorous marking makes their day when they do see it, while others have called it 'careless'.

Sharing photographs of the pictures on Facebook group Walsall In Pictures, Karl Rogman wrote: "I love Walsall Council but don't think they love the good citizens of Rushall or Bloxwich. They have got it right for Pelsall."

"Is this their feelings on entering Rushall or is it how they view Bloxwich?"

"Either way it brightens my day every time I drive over it."

The pictures shared by Karl re-

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Boxer's prose packs real punch with heroic style

BOXING'S 'first professional poet' was a man about town with the release of the new superhero film inspiring his latest prose.

Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice opened at cinemas, with the concept of having an alter-ego certainly resonating with Matt Windle, who teaches by day and fights by night.

The 25-year-old, who was named Birmingham's Poet Laureate in 2007, represented Warley Boxing Club as an amateur. The flamboyant flyweight landed at Dudley Showcase, reacting to the blockbuster by penning 'Dawn of a Pugilist'.

It reads: "The bell has already been rung. Out in the dark among the Gods. The script, previously written, and we ad-lib certain parts. When two Titans stand battle ready, all we can do is sit and watch. A contest for the ages, as warriors refuse to stop.

"Draw battle lines. Pick sides. Face off. Do you bleed? I'll prove that you will as the showdown's taking off. Let's make art in the honour or martial. So that people from here to DC will marvel. Like an alien – stand out and sparkle. As two deliver a justice that's harmful.

"Like fight night. Black and blue. Day versus night. Man versus...who? Shall we ever face more than our equal? To send echoes rippling across the universe – like the Beatles. We fear that which we do not understand. We roll with the punches like the words from our tongue. And, if you're top of the ladder, then I'll topple the rungs.

"The black masks are coming. The red capes are coming. The bell cannot be un-rung."

Unbeaten Windle, fights Gary Reeve over four rounds on Saturday May 21, at DudleyTown Hall.



Matt Windle on his way to his first professional win in Dudley



Boxer turned poet Matt Windle at Dudley Showcase for the movie

All aboard for exhibition

THE latest exhibition on the 4th floor of The New Art Gallery Walsall, has been put together by young Pakistani curator, Aziz Sohail.

It comes after a residency at the gallery supported by the British Council in March 2015 and mentoring over the previous year by head of exhibitions, Deborah Robinson.

Aziz has chosen to focus on representations of boats and the sea and how they inform artistic practices in diverse ways. The exhibition also fea-

tures a newly-commissioned film work by Pakistani artist Fazal Rizvi which is shown alongside a diverse range of historic, modern and contemporary works. Artists include David Muirhead Bone, Ryan Gander, Harold Gilman, Nigel Hall, Eric Ravilious, Jules-Emile Saintin, William Scott, Dayanita Singh and Bob and Roberta Smith.

Both Deborah and Aziz will be talking about the exhibition and the wider project at a free event on Saturday April 30 at 2pm.



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Borough to act as pilot for rates

WALSALL Council is to become a pilot area for the Government which will see the borough retain 100 per cent of its business rates. At the moment rates are collected and sent to London where they are pooled and divided up to local authorities around the country.

The move was mooted as Greg Clark Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government visited the town last Friday and spoke with council leader Mike Bird.

Councillor Bird said the borough would be £60 million worse-off just by keeping its own business rates because at the moment the council received a 'top up' to cover the shortfall. But he still welcomed the idea.

He said: "It is a good thing to be at the forefront of anything. It is not clear what formula will be used but we will work with the Government to see how keeping our business rates will affect us."

Growing success for employment arm leads to opening of new office

THE growing workload of a thriving recruitment agency has seen it launch a new office to serve the Walsall area.

Star Employment Services was launched in Wolverhampton by MNA, publishers of the Chronicle, just three years ago and the demand for its services has led to the opening of a new branch in Cannock, headed by Charlotte Horton.

She said: "Our Cannock office builds on Star Employment's success over the last few years, enabling us to offer more local people and local businesses the chance to find the right role and the right staff for any situation."

By Simon Penfold

"By this we mean assisting customers looking to recruit; bespoke services to suit their budgets and timelines. For our candidates we offer a communicative agent, a team that will speak to you, provide updates, give you feedback, offer preparation, and skills match your abilities to the right jobs."

Charlotte brings experience gained over more than a decade. She said: "I have been in the industry since 2005, worked from business administration apprenticeship upwards throughout recruitment, always working on developing honest and reputable business relationships."

Over the years she has supplied staffing solutions across almost every sector, from engineering, manufacturing, automotive, food production, warehousing and distribution to accountancy, sales and marketing, telecoms and the media.

As branch manager Charlotte will be working closely with her Cannock office colleague Chloe Davies, who has recruitment experience with blue chip companies supplying staffing on a fast-paced quick turnaround basis. Together, says Charlotte: "We aim to find and place the best candidates to businesses in the local area."

The team also work closely with Star Employment Services' operations director, Lucy Cashmore, and Kylee Millward.



Chloe Davies, left, and Charlotte Horton

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Road shut after lorry sheds load



The clear-up under way of metal girders in the road after a lorry overturned and shed its load in Brownhills

A ROAD had to be closed after a lorry shed its load in Brownhills. Steel girders covered the carriageway of the A5 between the A452 and the B4154, with drivers forced to take alternative routes last Monday.

Road users were told to give themselves extra time while travelling. Craig Hughes, of West Midlands Police, said: "Police were called to reports a lorry had overturned and shed its load on the A5 at just before 12.50pm. A man suffered minor injuries."

Highways England issued a statement on the road closure via their website. It said: "The A5 in Staffordshire is closed northbound between the A452 and the B4154, due to an overturned vehicle which has shed its load of steel girders across the carriageway. West Midlands Police are in attendance. Traffic is being diverted via local routes. Road users are advised to allow extra time for their journeys and consider alternative routes."

Fire crews from Chase Terrace and Rugeley attended the scene and helped to make the vehicle safe. The driver was out of the lorry when emergency services arrived.

Ex's porn film past sparked revenge

A WOMAN'S sex films secret sent her ex-lover into a rage that has landed him behind bars for 11 months.

Paul Hewitt took revenge after discovering she had made porn films. The furious 45-year-old was further enraged by the fact his daughter from an earlier relationship had watched some of the videos, a judge heard.

Report by John Scott

He locked the woman out of the Walsall address they had shared during the two-year affair, hurled her belongings into the street and spat at her when she returned from work on October 18, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The next day he went on a wrecking spree at her home, ripping up pictures of the pair together and then littering the floor with them, said Mr John Brotherton, prosecuting.

The defendant scrawled her Twitter address on the wall and cut the landline phone to the property while also bombarding the woman - who cannot be named for legal reasons - with threatening text messages for three days, the court heard.

A text message warned: "Just watch what I will do. Even if I have to spend five years in jail - just watch."

Hewitt also warned that he would show the video that had been seen by his daughter to the girl his partner had from another relationship. He was arrested on October 26 and Mr Brotherton concluded: "He had become angry because the victim was doing work in the sex industry."

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, said: "The imagery really upset him but his subsequent behaviour was unpleasant and inexcusable. This was set against a backdrop of the difficult circumstances of the relationship but he accepts that it is over."

Hewitt, from Wednesbury Road, Caldmore, Walsall, admitted putting a person in fear of violence through harassment and two cases of criminal damage.

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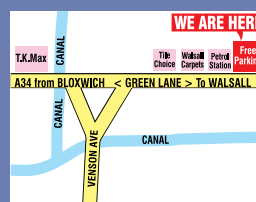
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THE PRIMARY TIMES

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Charity begins at school for pupils



Youngsters Callum and Tayla Elkington hand over £500 for St Giles Hospice, after fundraising took place

CHARITABLE works have become firmly embedded in the Christian Ethos of Christ Church CE Primary School over the past four years.

Not only have pupils, parents and staff raised money for National Charities like Children in Need but they have also supported less-known and local charities.

Pupils often lead the way with the charitable work as can be seen by a much watched YouTube video of Headteacher, Sean Davies, getting a pie in the face from Tyler Price a pupil at the school.

This was a sponsored event to raise money for Diabetes UK and was organised by Tyler himself.

Since that time the school has also

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

become one of the few schools to achieve the 'Good Diabetes Care in Schools Award' of which they are all, quite rightly, very proud.

Another pupil, Grace Bradley, recently raised hundreds of pounds by having her hair cut short for the Little Princess Trust, the money raised and the hair that was cut will be used to provide a wig for a child who has lost their hair.

Again, the charitable work was organised by Grace herself.

Year 6 pupils also raised money to subsidise their residential trip to 'Bryn-

tysilio'. Cake Sales, non-uniform days and a bag pack at Bloxwich Asda meant that parents received a £50 reduction in the cost of the trip.

Each of these charities has also been supported by the 'Friends of Christ Church' who are band of supportive parents who have raised thousands of pounds for the pupils.

As part of their good works, the Friends of Christ Church have been very supportive of 'St Giles Hospice'. This is a charity that is very close to the hearts of the 'Christ Church Family' as they helped look after two of the school's parents in their final days.

The Friends of Christ Church were very pleased to donate £500 to St Giles that was raised by holding cake sales, non-uniform events and also asking for donations at the autumn fayre.

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Goldsmith's – first for quality learning

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

GOLDSMITH Primary Academy is a successful and rapidly expanding school in Walsall.

We have an excellent reputation for providing quality learning for local children from 2-11 years old.

We pride ourselves on the breadth of experiences we offer to the children in our care, and our culture and ethos creates high expectations and aspirations that unlocks every child's potential in terms of academic achievement and personal development.

We are rated 'Good' by OFSTED and in a recent questionnaire 98 per cent of our pupils said that they enjoy coming to our school and taking full advantage of our after school clubs and our wide range of other enrichment opportunities.

Strengthen

Goldsmith Primary Academy is part of the Windsor Academy Trust whose reputation of being committed to achieving the highest quality learning experience for all its pupils and achieving the best possible outcomes for them helps to strengthen what Goldsmith Primary Academy offers to its pupils.

Goldsmith Primary Academy bespoke ASPIRE curriculum is positively impacting on the pupils' attitudes, achievements and behaviour, and is being delivered by experienced teachers and a senior management team that is dedicated to delivering the highest quality education.



Unlocking every child's potential at Goldsmith Primary Academy in Walsall

We are able to offer our pupils excellent sports and outdoor facilities through the forest schools initiative and the fact that we have our own pool.

We are very proud of SEN provision which is rated good.

Our early years provision is one of the best in the area, from two years old it concentrates on developing your child's – Physical Development/Understanding of the World/Literacy/Maths and Communication and Language all of which are the building blocks of a successful school career.

Our two-year-old places are funded through the Government's "Think Two" funding, to find out if your child can be offered a place call the Walsall Family Information service on 01922 653383.

If your two-year-old is eligible you will receive a start code to bring to the school office and we will arrange a start date for your child.

We welcome visits to our school so if you think that Goldsmith Primary Academy is the place for your two-year-old to start their learning journey we would love to hear from you!

Hydesville helps children flourish

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

IT'S no surprise that Hydesville Tower School retains its high ranking position in performance tables year on year.

Pupils succeed year on year due to small year groups and class sizes, high aspirations of staff and flexibility within a broad and balanced curriculum.

A co-educational leading independent school, pupils can join our nursery school at the age of three and progress through the prep and senior school.

Hydesville Towers School's excellent education begins with Early Years provision, as headteacher Mr McGinnes explains: "At Hydesville Tower School we are passionate about our children.

Environment

"From the moment they arrive in our nursery and reception classes we take every care to provide them with the support they will need to help them flourish.

"We encourage a spirit of enquiry and exploration by providing an exciting, stimulating and safe environment in which to learn."

Hydesville Tower School offers one of the top nurseries in the Walsall area, open 50 weeks of the year, with highly qualified and specialist nursery staff and all the benefits of an independent school. A home-from-home school setting, with exceptionally small class sizes and dedicated teaching staff who have in-depth knowledge of each individual child.

Each child is given one-to-one



Our exceptional teaching nursery offers a home-from-home setting, small class sizes and dedicated teaching staff who have in-depth knowledge of each child

teaching and is treated as an individual in order to make excellent progress with their learning and all-round development.

In reception, the children build on their learning experiences gained at nursery and are introduced to a slightly more formal school day which encourages a little more independence with the form teacher and teaching assistant leading the process.

"We are confident that when our children progress through the prep and eventually senior school, they are hap-

py, caring and successful," adds Mr McGinnes.

Come along and find out more about Hydesville Tower School and experience a unique approach to providing Early Years education and learning. Join us at one of our free Nursery Play and Stay sessions on April 29 and June 24.

For more information see www.hydesville.com or contact admissions manager Christine Phillips on christine.phillips@hydesville.com or 01922 624374.

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*(places also available in other year groups).



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COGNITA Hydesville is part of the Cognita Schools Group.



In 2008 the bus left the garage for the first time in 15 years after its restoration to working order and the team then set to the task of completing the project



In 1998, the group used the inside of the bus as a temporary shed before starting on the road to returning it to its former glory



The 156 Bus Group – Howard 'Terry' Carter, Graham Harper, Dave Wootton and Ian Rhydderch with their pride and joy



Dave Wootton, who is one of the drivers of the 156 bus

Wheels on the bus go round again after decades of attention to detail

IT has taken Graham Harper decades, but the driven 75-year-old has spent more than £23,000 rebuilding the bus that took him to school more than 60 years ago.

Graham used to hop on the number 28 bus as a teenager each morning 60 years ago and even travelled on the Daimler CVG 5 on its first day of service.

So when the opportunity to get hold of the disused vehicle from the West Bromwich Bus Corporation came up in 1967, he managed to strike a bargain deal with the council. But Graham only began working on the bus, which has cost him £13,000 in rent to store alone, in 1982 with pals.

Incredibly, even after he finished studying at Cronehills Secondary Technical School in West Bromwich, Graham even used the bus to travel to work for years while as an apprentice at a steel equipment company. In total, Graham reckons he had

MEMORY LANE

Report by Alex Ross

travelled 54,600 miles on the bus while using the 28 route.

The components for the bus set Graham back a princely £10,000 in total, with the likes of new tyres and replacement seat covers costing £1,000 and £2,500 respectively.

Even after years of riding the bus to and from work, Graham then took up working as a bus driver until his retirement and puts his long-lasting love down to his father who also worked in the profession.

Chassis

The 38-seater vehicle has since passed its MOT and thankfully for Graham, and his wallet, he doesn't have to pay road tax.

The labour of love has seen Graham and his mates Terry Cater, 74, Dave Wootton, 70, and Ian Rhydderch, 74, at the 156 Bus Group painstakingly strip out the entire bus

right down to the chassis which transpired was built in 1948. And, having driven buses for so long, it was only fitting that Graham took his renovated ride for a spin once it was roadworthy.

Graham said: "Initially when I got behind the wheel of the Daimler I had reservations, as I had been surprised that the bus had passed its MOT. But it was an absolute pleasure to drive and take it on the road as there were so many memories that it brought back. I used to get on the number 28 bus to get to secondary school in the morning and have ended up getting on that route all of my life. I'd often thought that I wouldn't mind becoming a bus driver like my father and when the opportunity came up to buy the bus, I thought I would become an owner as well."

While the project has been dear to Graham and his friends over the years though, he admitted that the painstaking process sometimes tested his wife, Joyce, 70. Graham said: "My wife has been very patient with me over the years."



Graham Harper, seen when he was aged six

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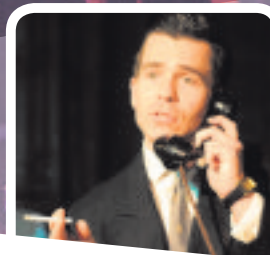
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Flare Path



Monday to Saturday (April 30), Birmingham Rep, B'ham

This new production of Terence Rattigan's wartime romance features Lynden Edwards and Hedydd Dylan (pictured) as old flames in a love triangle with her RAF pilot husband. Visit www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Julian Clary: The Joy Of Mincing



Wednesday, 8pm New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham

The comedian and novelist looks back over his 30 years of camp comedy, ranging from causing TV outrage to becoming a family panto favourite, in The Joy of Mincing tour. See www.atgtickets.com/shows

Des O'Connor



Saturday, 7.30pm Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

The 84-year-old showbiz legend looks back at a glittering career that has seen him work with stars including Frank Sinatra, Buddy Holly, The Beatles and, of course, Morecambe and Wise. See www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Tell Me On A Sunday



Sunday, 7.30pm New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham

Following success in Oliver! and Camelot, the nation's favourite Lancashire lass, Jodie Prenger, is seeking love in New York in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's musical. See www.atgtickets.com/shows

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Three Blind Mice

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Tue at 7.30pm, £7 The Rainbow, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD. Call 0121 753 1818

Vant

Tomorrow at 7.30pm, The Sunflower Lounge, Birmingham, B5 4EG. Call 0121 632 6756

Amped

Wed at 7pm, The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Quill

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Ben Haenow

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The James Hunter Six

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Raymond Froggatt

Sun at 7.30pm, £17 Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Broken Hands

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CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

The Magic Of Motown

Tonight at 7.30pm, £24.50 Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Marlon Williams

Tonight at 7.30pm - 11pm, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

UK Subs

Tonight at 7.30pm, The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Iglew

Tomorrow at 10pm - 4am Sat, Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Sebastian Suhardi & Jonathan French

Mon at 1pm - 2pm, Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

The Complete Brahms Chamber Music With Piano Cycle

Tomorrow at 1pm - 3pm, Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

Blues Caravan 2016

Mon at 7.30pm, The Robin 2 Hotel, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Derek Ryan

Wed at 7.30pm, Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP. Call 01952 382382

The Birmingham Philharmonic Concerto Prize Final

Sun at 3pm - 6.30pm, Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

Korpklaani & Moonsorrow

Tue at 7pm, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Romeo And Juliet

Sat at 7pm, Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Butcher Babies

Sat at 7pm, O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Majija

Sat at 8pm, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Logic

Tomorrow at 6.30pm, The Institute, Digbeth, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

Method Man & Redman

Tue at 7pm, The Institute, Birmingham, B5 6DY. Call 0121 643 0428

CBSO 2015-16 – Mahler's Fourth

Wed at 2.15pm, £12.50 - £43 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

COMEDY

Ed Byrne: Outside Looking In

Sat at 8pm, £19 - £21 Artrix, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Mitch Benn: Don't Believe A Word

Tue at 8pm, Stourbridge Town Hall, DY8 1YE. Call 01384 812960

Patrick Monahan: The Disco Years

Sat at 7pm, The Drum, Birmingham, B6 4UU. Call 0121 333 2400

Rough Works: New Material Night

Sun at 6.30pm, The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

The (Almost) Complete History Of Britain

Wed at 8pm, Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Rob Delaney: Meat

Sat at 8pm, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

An Evening With Des O'Connor

Sat at 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Blotfeld & Baxter: Rogues On The Road

Tue at 7.30pm - 9.30pm, £ Theatre Severn, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY3 8FT. Call 01743 281281

Julian Clary: The Joy Of Mincing

Weds at 8pm, £25.90 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0871 246 5898

THEATRE

Peter Kay's Dance For Life

Sat at 6pm, Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Return To The Forbidden Planet: Stafford Gatehouse Youth Theatre

Tonight at 7pm, Tomorrow at 7pm, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Sooty Show: Sooty In Space

Sat and Sun, Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU. Call 0844 880 7667

Menopause The Musical

Tue at 7.30pm, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Late Night Love

Tonight at 7.30pm, Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Keith Barry: Brain Hacker

Mon at 8pm, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Flare Path

Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, £ Birmingham Repertory Theatre, St George's Court, Albion Street, Birmingham, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Tell Me On A Sunday

Sun at 7.30pm, £24.50 - £28.50 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Let It Be

Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Dial M For Murder

Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Dishonoured

Tonight at 8pm - 10.30pm, Tomorrow at 8pm - 10.30pm, Sat at 8pm - 10.30pm, mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

The Beanfield

Tue at 8pm, Wed at 8pm, Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Breakfast At Tiffany's

Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Mary Poppins

Today at 2pm, 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £25.55 - £30.60 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Working

Tonight at 7.30pm, Tomorrow at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Beatlemania is fab for theatre again



From Mathew Street to Hurst Street – the Cavern recreated on stage in the Let It Be show coming to the Hippodrome

BEATLEMANIA returns to Birmingham Hippodrome next week when West End and Broadway hit Let It Be rocks onto the stage – 53 years after the original Fab Four performed on the Hippodrome stage.

The band performed at the theatre twice in 1963, first in March and then in November where their 10 song set included From Me To You, All My Loving, Twist and Shout, and She Loves You.

Celebrating the music of the world's most successful band in a spectacular concert, Let It Be charts the Merseyside group's meteoric rise

from humble beginnings in Liverpool's Cavern Club, through to height of Beatlemania to their later studio masterpieces.

Seen by more than one million people worldwide, Let It Be is packed with 40-plus of The Beatles' greatest hits including A Hard Day's Night, Help!, Ticket To Ride, Yesterday, Hey Jude, Come Together, All You Need Is Love and, of course, Let It Be.

The cast of Let It Be features a number of talented musicians from the West Midlands, including Wolverhampton-born Paul Canning who shares the role of John Lennon with

Birmingham's Reuven Gershon. Luke Roberts who plays Ringo Starr was born in Birmingham and lived in Leamington Spa. Emanuele Angeletti and Iain Hornal share the role of Paul McCartney, with Paul Mannion and John Brosnan playing George Harrison. They will be joined on stage by Michael Bramwell on keyboards.

Let It Be will be staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from Mon to Saturday, April 30, nightly plus matinees on Wednesday and Saturday. Tickets start from £13.50. Buy online at birminghamhippodrome.com or telephone 0844 338 5000.



Dial up a dark thriller

MADE famous by the Alfred Hitchcock movie starring Ray Milland and Grace Kelly, Dial M For Murder is coming to the stage at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, April 30.

Presented by talkingScarlet, the company behind last year's popular stage thriller The Ghost Train, Dial M For Murder stars former Coronation Street actor Oliver Mellor, pictured left as Tony Wendice, a manipulative former tennis pro who wants to get his hands on his wife's inheritance. Best known as Dr Matt Carter in the top ITV soap for three years, his other TV credits include Father Brown, Midsomer Murders and Doctors.

Wealthy

Playing the wealthy Mrs Sheila Wendice is Terri Dwyer, best known for her role as Ruth Osbourne in Hollyoaks. She also featured in three series of popular daytime show 60 Minute Makeover and is known for appearances on This Morning.

Brookside actor Marcus Hutton plays the rich wife's other man, Max Halliday. He has voiced hundreds of commercials and can be heard in Doctor Who audio dramas, as well as being remembered as Nathan Cuddington in the C4 soap.

Frederick Knott's intense and darkly gripping 1950s thriller promises plenty of twists and tension. It will be performed nightly with matinees on Wednesday and Saturday. See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212. Tickets start from £13.50.

Saturday night disco fever with DJ PK

TICKETS have sold out for top comic Peter Kay's fundraising 'dance-a-thon party' in Birmingham on Saturday night with all of the profits going to Cancer Research UK.

The Barclaycard Arena will be transformed into a gigantic disco with DJ PK on the decks for what promises to be a memorable night out.

It is one of several giant fundraising parties the popular comedian is throwing at huge venues across the country in aid of the charity.

The disco-goers are being invited to wear fancy dress and to join Peter's 'Dance for Life' team at www.justgiving.com/teams/danceforlife

Acts from New York and New Zealand

NEW York duo We Are Scientists, who release their fifth album Helter Seltzer tomorrow, have a gig at Birmingham's O2 Institute on Wednesday.

Other upcoming highlights include New Zealand rising star Marlon Williams at the Hare and Hounds tonight (Thu). That Kings Heath venue also hosts quirky Lancashire pop couple The Lovely Eggs on Sunday and then London indie outfit In Heaven on Wednesday.

Downtown duo Macklemore & Ryan Lewis play the Barclaycard Arena on Tuesday, when Finnish 'folk-metal' outfit Korpiakani play the city's O2 Academy.

Hear blues sisters and a top soul man

THE Blues Caravan rolls into the Black Country to showcase the best female talent from the Ruf record label on Monday at Bilston's Robin 2 venue. The Blues Sisters show is a triple bill featuring Tasha Taylor, daughter of Stax soul legend Johnnie Taylor, sultry Finnish singer Ina Forsman and the highly-rated Canadian songstress Layla Zoe.

Fans of the genre can get a shot of hot R&B this side of the weekend when The James Hunter Six, led by the man described as the UK's best soul singer by Mojo, play Brum's O2 Institute 2 venue in Digbeth tomorrow night (Friday).

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April

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May

BALLET THEATRE UK PRESENTS PINOCCHIO

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May

RICHARD DIGANCE

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Roy Orbison/
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Tribute
DANNY FISHER
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Saturday 7th May
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CHOICE



Michael McIntyre

Michael McIntyre's Big Show (BBC1, 7.15pm)
The comedian introduces another evening of entertainment at London's Theatre Royal. This week, he is joined on stage by fellow funnyman Josh Widdicombe, and introduces an acrobatic performance by Canadian duo Chilly and Fly. Bryan Adams and Jess Glynne provide the night's musical diversions, and singer Ronan Keating risks his personal and professional relationships when he hands Michael his mobile phone in Celebrity Sent To All. Plus, a locksmith who thinks he has come to fix a faulty lock at the theatre receives the surprise of his life in Unexpected Star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** MasterChef. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** The London Marathon – A Million Reasons to Run. **1.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **4.30** BBC News. **4.40** Regional Programme. **4.50** MOTD: Live FA Cup Semi-Final. Coverage of the first semi-final (Kick-off 5.15pm). **7.15** **Michael McIntyre's Big Show.** The comedian introduces performances by Josh Widdicombe, Bryan Adams, Jess Glynne and acrobatics duo Chilly and Fly. Plus, Ronan Keating takes part in Celebrity Sent To All. **8.05** **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Glasgow couple James and Karissa seek to win prizes from their personal wish list, and Julian Ovenden joins Kate Garraway for the Lotto and Thunderball draws. **8.55** **Casualty.** Big Mac's painkiller dependency starts to take its toll on his health, and Rita receives a number of complaints from nonexistent patients. Medical drama, starring Charles Dale. **9.45** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Trevor has decided to work for a mission project in Africa, so Agnes resolves to give him an unforgettable send-off, while Cathy's family counselling session descends into chaos. (R) **10.15** BBC News; Weather. **10.35** **Match of the Day.** Mark Chapman presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, featuring Aston Villa v Southampton, Bournemouth v Chelsea and Liverpool v Newcastle United; National Lottery Update. **11.20** **Peter Kay's Comedy Shuffle.** The comedian looks back over his career, introducing clips from his TV shows, highlights from his numerous chat show appearances and his music videos. (R) **11.50** **The London Marathon – A Million Reasons to Run.** Gabby Logan investigates the stories of various runners, fundraisers and enthusiasts, who explain what inspired them to participate in the London Marathon. (R) **12.20** Snooker: World Championship Extra. **3.20** World Snooker: Crucible Classics. **5.20** Weather for the Week Ahead. **5.25** BBC News.

BBC2

7.55 **Film:** Fort Apache. (1948) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul. (R) **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.30** The Hairy Bikers' Pubs That Built Britain. (R) **4.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Flog It! (R) **6.00** **Bake Off: Creme de la Creme.** Tom Kerridge welcomes three more teams of pastry chefs, and their challenges include making an Italian pastry called Sfogliatelle, and Sticky Toffee Pudding. (R) **7.00** **Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the third and final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where another second-round match is set to conclude. **8.00** **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring is accused of leaving a light burning in the church hall during a blackout, and receives a summons to appear in court. (R) **8.30** **Shakespeare Live! From the RSC.** David Tennant assembles a host of luminaries from the worlds of film, theatre and music to celebrate the life, work and legacy of William Shakespeare, 400 years after his death. Taking up residence at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, with the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall in attendance, David is joined by fellow actors Judi Dench, Ian McKellen, Meera Syal and Joseph Fiennes, musician Rufus Wainwright, rapper Akala and comedy star Tim Minchin, all of whom share their thoughts on the Bard's enduring influence on the performing arts, from his home medium of the theatre, through to opera, jazz, dance and musicals. Also includes contributions by performers from the English National Opera and The Royal Ballet. **10.30** **QI XL.** Extended edition. The Rev Richard Coles, Sara Pascoe, Bill Bailey and Alan Davies try to answer host Stephen Fry's questions on L-themed larks – a 'Liblabile', as he calls it. **11.15** **Snooker: The World Championship.** **12.05** **Film:** Mesrine: Killer Instinct. (2008) **1.50** **Film:** Mesrine: Public Enemy Number One. (2008) **3.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knockor Street. **6.15** Bottom Knockor Street. (R) **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Super 4. (R) **7.30** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.45** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **12.05** ITV News; Weather. **12.14** Regional Programme. **12.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.15** Planet's Got Talent. (R) **1.45** 880 Champ. (R) **2.45** Film: Beethoven. (1992) Canine comedy, starring Charles Grodin. **4.25** The Wine Show. **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather. **5.40** ITV News; Weather. **6.00** **You've Been Framed! Bites Back!** Harry Hill narrates another hour-long special, showcasing embarrassing home-video submissions alongside clips that "take a bite" out of celebrity culture. Among tonight's featured hijinks are a man receiving a powerful electric shock to the nipple, an angry wife who throws a dart at her husband's leg, and a good example of why it is a bad idea to teach a toddler to operate a full-size tractor. **7.00** **Bang on the Money.** Teams from Essex and Newcastle battle it out to hit a specific target number "bang on" in a series of physical and mental challenges. **8.00** **Britain's Got Talent.** The nationwide talent search continues as Ant and Dec host the third round of auditions, in which more members of the public are invited to display their extraordinary talents, in an attempt to win the approval of judges Simon Cowell, Alesha Dixon, Amanda Holden and David Walliams. **9.15** **Play to the Whistle.** Professional boxer Anthony Joshua and comedians Kevin Bridges and Jon Richardson join Frank Lampard, Bradley Walsh and Romesh Ranganathan for the topical comedy challenge show. **10.00** ITV News; Weather. **10.15** **Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift.** (2006) Action adventure, starring Lucas Black and Nathalie Kelley. **12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Greater Manchester Marathon. **6.40** British GT Championship. **7.05** Brighton Marathon 2016. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Sandown Park, Ripon and Haydock Park. **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.30** Homes by the Med. **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **The Secret World of Lego.** Documentary going behind the scenes at the toy company, following a design student as he seeks a coveted position with the company and two fans hatching money-making schemes. (R) **8.00** **Arnie Schwarzenegger's 50 Greatest Ever Stunts.** Actor and former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger presents a countdown of the most spectacular stunts ever committed to film. The Terminator star famously insisted on performing many of his own stunts during his Hollywood action-man heyday, and here, he highlights the achievements of fellow stars whose efforts produced thrilling set-pieces on-screen. However, Arnie does not limit himself to high-octane antics from the silver screen. He also showcases stand-alone feats, such as Jean Claude Van Damme's daring splits manoeuvre between two moving trucks, and Felix Baumgartner's free fall to Earth from the stratosphere. Includes commentary from fans, comedians, stunt coordinators and the daredevils themselves. **9.30** **Film: The Transporter.** (2002) An underworld courier lives by a simple code – to never ask what he is transporting. However, when he discovers his latest cargo is alive, his conscience gets the better of him and he faces a dangerous game of cat and mouse with his unknown but powerful employers. Action adventure, starring Jason Statham. **11.20** **Film: Contraband.** (2012) **1.20** Hollywoods. (R) **3.30** Tricks of the Restaurant Trade. (R) **3.55** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. **4.50** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **10.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.10** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.15** Now That's Funny! (R) **5.15** Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **6.10** **NCIS: Los Angeles.** Deeks is forced to resume an old alias he hates in a bid to protect his best friend and chief informant from arms traffickers who want him dead. **7.05** **NCIS: New Orleans.** A US Marine, a waitress and a chef are shot dead at a diner, and LaSalle realises the culprit may be the same killer he and Pride failed to catch during their first case together. **8.00** **NCIS.** McGee deals with his father's recent death by writing him a letter detailing a case in which he and Abby tried to catch cyber-terrorists responsible for a city-wide internet outage. **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches from the Championship, including Derby County v Sheffield Wednesday at iPro Stadium, and Hull City v Leeds United at KCOM Stadium. Plus, a round-up of all the goals, the main talking points, and interviews with a selection of players and managers. **10.00** **Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of the latest matches in League One and League Two, including Wigan Athletic v Southend United, and Bristol Rovers v Exeter City. **10.30** **NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** The murder of a marine's wife is shown live on the internet and inquiries point to two housewives who were running their own pornographic website, but have since vanished. (R) **11.25** **NCIS: Greatest Ever Episodes.** A six-year-old boy claims his father has been kidnapped, and the agents learn the missing man is a lieutenant commander who has been working on a confidential report. (R) **12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Best of Bad TV. (R) **4.20** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 A History of Ancient Britain **8.00** Natural World **9.00** Hinterland **10.30** BBC: The Secret Files 2 **11.30** BBC: The Secret Files 2.30 Imagine – Bette Midler: The Divine Miss M **1.45** It's Only Rock 'n' Roll: Rock 'n' Roll at the BBC **2.45** BBC: The Secret Files 2 **3.45** Close **ITV2**
11.00 Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.25** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **2.25** Scorpion **3.20** Film: Batteries Not Included (1987) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30** Film: Batteries Not Included (1987) **5.30** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **6.30** FYI Daily **6.35** Film: Hotel Transylvania (2012) **7.15** Film: After Earth (2013) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** Film: After Earth (2013) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show **2.15** @elevenish **2.40** Teleshopping **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
12.30 Film: Man About the House (1974) **1.30** FYI Daily **1.35** Film: Man About the House (1974) **2.00** Film: Columbo: A Stitch in Crime (1973) **3.55** Rosemary & Thyme **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.05** Blue Murder **1.35** Doctor at Large **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
12.30 British Touring Car Championship Highlights **2.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The Paris ePrix. **4.30** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **5.30** The Darts Mavericks **6.30** The Big Fish Off **7.30** Film: Space Cowboys (2000) **8.30** FYI Daily **8.35** Film: Space Cowboys (2000) **10.05** Film: Get Carter (2000) **11.05** FYI Daily **11.10** Film: Get Carter (2000) **12.15** Film: The Fog (1980) **1.15** FYI Daily **1.20** Film: The Fog (1980) **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **E4**
11.30 Baby Daddy **12.30** How I Met Your Mother **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Goldbergs **3.55** Film: Dear John (2010) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Tower Heist (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox **12.40** Ride Tube **1.45** The IT Crowd **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **Film4**
11.40 A Monster in Paris (2011) **1.00** City of Ember (2008) **2.50** Carry On Dick (1974) **4.40** Congo (1995) **6.45** The Women (2008) **9.00** Unknown (2011) **11.15** Filth (2013) **1.10** V/H/S/2 (2013) **3.10** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Killer Collector, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Two women at an auction unwittingly purchase a storage locker belonging to a serial killer that contains evidence of his crimes. They soon find themselves in a desperate race to uncover the truth before the murderer tracks them down. Thriller, directed by and starring Casper Van Dien. (2015)

TUESDAY

Nightmare from the Past, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Two decades after four high school students accidentally killed a mansion's owner, a mother faces a ghost from her youth in the form of the obsessed ex-con who paid the price for the friends' crimes. Thriller, starring Ashley Scott. (2015)

WEDNESDAY

Heartbreakers, Channel 4, 1.30am

Mother and daughter Max and Page develop a canny system of conning rich bachelors out of a fortune. Max marries the target, then Page seduces him, allowing for a lucrative divorce settlement. However, the scheme is threatened when Page falls in love, while a former victim tracks Max down hoping to give their marriage another chance. Comedy, starring Sigourney Weaver, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Gene Hackman, Ray Liotta and Jason Lee. (2001)



Tomorrow Never Dies, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY

Cradle of Lies, Channel 5, 3.10pm

A woman awakes from a coma with no memory, until a scar on her abdomen stimulates flashes of her past and she remembers giving birth while she was unconscious. Thriller, starring Nicole de Boer. (2015)

FRIDAY

Tomorrow Never Dies, ITV, 10.40pm

James Bond joins forces with a Chinese agent to foil a media mogul's scheme to start a war between their countries. Using an undetectable stealth ship, the press baron plans an attack on both nations' navies, knowing they will blame each other – giving him exclusive global media coverage of the resulting conflict. Spy adventure, starring Pierce Brosnan, Jonathan Pryce and Michelle Yeoh. (1997)

Stage stars celebrate Shakespeare's skills

You can run but you can't hide from the Bard – he's everywhere, almost omnipotent, whether you realise it or not.

Many well-worn everyday phrases first appeared in his works, while his stories continue to have a major influence on popular culture today, so it seems only right that we should celebrate his life and legacy – even if it is on the 400th anniversary of his death.

"BBC2 is playing a central role in the BBC's Shakespeare celebrations and I'm delighted we will be showing this very special piece which typifies the new ambition and scale we are bringing to arts programming on the channel," explains Kim Shillinglaw, controller of BBC2 and BBC4.

David Tennant may be best known for his starring roles in Doctor Who and Broadchurch, but he's no stranger to William Shakespeare's works, having appeared on stage in the likes of Hamlet, Love's Labour's Lost, Much Ado About Nothing and Richard III.

He's also hugely popular, particularly with younger viewers, so is

perhaps the ideal person to front this two-hour-long programme – he has the knowledge of the subject to carry it off, and the appeal to attract those who might not otherwise have tuned in.

Tennant will be joined on stage at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon by his fellow actors Judi Dench, Ian McKellen, Meera Syal and Joseph Fiennes, musician Rufus Wainwright, rapper Akala and comedy star Tim Minchin, all of whom share their thoughts on the Bard's enduring influence on the performing arts, from his home medium of the theatre, through to opera, jazz, dance and musicals.

There's also a chance to see contributions by performers from the English National Opera and The Royal Ballet.

"Shakespeare gives us a 360 degree view of what it is to be human and has inspired creativity across every art form," says Gregory Doran, the RSC's artistic director. "This live event is the highlight of what will be an extraordinary year for Shakespeare fans, and gives us a chance to

celebrate just how far his genius has travelled, influencing artists down the centuries and across the world."

As Doran says, there are more special programmes and events on their way from the BBC and RSC.

"Our ambition is to get more people excited about Shakespeare than ever before – through drama, great performance, documentary, festivals and social media too," reveals Tony Hall, director-general of the BBC. "We're partnering with talent right across the country and delighted to be working with the RSC. 2016 is going to be the biggest celebration of Shakespeare we've ever put on – for everyone."

So, keep your eye out for a heap of Shakespearean goodies in the future, including a retelling of A Midsummer Night's Dream by Russell T Davies, which will star Maxine Peake, Matt Lucas, Bernard Cribbins and Elaine Paige, and there will also be three more episodes of The Hollow Crown, this time featuring an all-star cast that includes Benedict Cumberbatch, Sophie Okonedo, Hugh Bonneville and Michael Gambon.



David Tennant (right) presents Shakespeare Live! From the RSC, Saturday, BBC2, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Flowers

Channel 4, 10pm

New series. Comedy about an eccentric family struggling to hold themselves together, beginning with a double bill. Children's author Maurice and his music teacher wife Deborah live in a crumbling old house with his ailing mother Hattie and their maladjusted 25-year-old twins Amy and Donald. An already black day for Maurice turns into a nightmare when Deborah insists on celebrating their anniversary, while Amy and Donald vie for the affections of their lovely neighbour Abigail.

Marcella

ITV, 9pm

In the recent second series of Happy Valley, Sarah Lancashire was briefly a suspect in a murder case due to her prior history with the victim, but it seemed no one genuinely thought she'd done it – they just wanted to officially rule her out. However, if it becomes common knowledge that Marcella Backland, the volatile heroine of this detective series, was the one of the last people to see Grace Gibson alive, she might genuinely be in the frame, thanks to that very nasty temper of hers. So, it's not surprising that the detective is keen to find the taxi driver from outside Gibson's house to find out if he

can place her there on the night of murder. Meanwhile, an aborted attack on an elderly man gives the police a new lead in the Grove Park Killings.

TUESDAY

Fierce

ITV, 8pm

Steve Backshall travels to Guyana, home to gigantic anaconda, piranha, jaguar and other lethal predators. His adventure begins by flying 340-miles south-west from the capital Georgetown to the remote Central Rupununi rainforest. He also visits a remote stretch of the rainforest on the Mapiari River, and searches for an electric eel. Aside from tracking down the bullet ant, so named because one sting feels like being shot, Steve also holds a bird-eating tarantula, and gets a rare sighting of the endangered giant river otter.

WEDNESDAY

MasterChef

BBC1, 9pm

It's the semi-finals, which calls for a huge challenge – and the remaining eight contestants are

about to face their toughest task to date. They are heading to the biggest naval base in Western Europe, ready to serve lunch to members of the Royal Navy on board the anti-submarine frigate HMS Northumberland. Split into two teams of four and given a kitchen in a specially constructed catering tent, they'll have less than four hours to create two main courses and a dessert to feed 110 members of the ship's company. Whichever team's efforts aren't judged quite shipshape by judges John Torode and Gregg Wallace will have to head back to the MasterChef kitchen for a cook-off, using leftovers from the previous challenge.



Flowers, Monday, Channel 4, 10pm

THURSDAY

Line of Duty

BBC2, 9pm

The third series of Jed Mercurio's police procedural began with a big twist when Daniel Mays' bad guy was killed off at the end of episode one. After four

equally gripping episodes which delved further into the corruption scandal hinted at in series one and two – and reintroduced Keeley Hawes as anti-hero Lindsay Denton – it seems the feature-length finale promises to up the ante as one of the AC-12 officers finds themselves on the other side of the interview table on suspicion of murder. AC-12 legal counsel Gill Bigglelow puts pressure on Supt Ted Hastings, only for new evidence to turn the inquiry on its head. An undercover investigation may provide the key – but will the unit ever uncover the truth about the Caddy? Martin Compston, Vicky McClure, Adrian Dunbar and Polly Walker star.

FRIDAY

The Secret

ITV, 9pm

New series. Drama set in 1990 Northern Ireland, starring James Nesbitt as respected dentist Colin Howell, who falls for Hazel Buchanan at his local Baptist church and embarks upon a passionate affair. Wanting to remain in the church, Colin refuses to consider divorce, but he and Hazel are desperate to find some way to be together. When Lesley's father dies and she contemplates suicide, Colin believes that he has found a way forward and both enter a deadly pact. With Genevieve O'Reilly, Laura Pyper and Glen Wallace.

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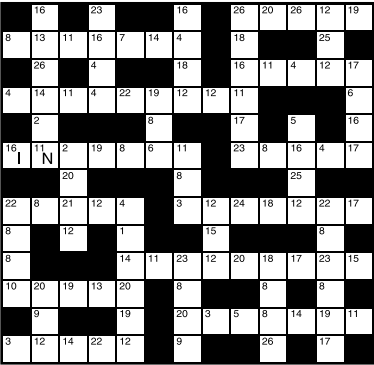
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BRAIN GYM No.374

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
F D P X A K M C R Y Q N W
J S Z G B U O T E H L V I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

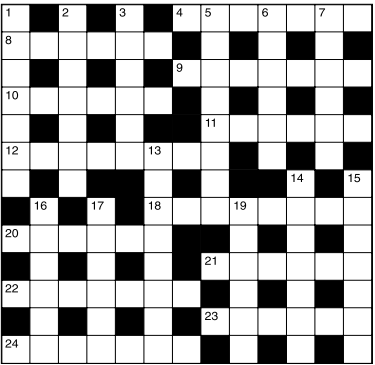
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 4. Wrongly name the girl, we hear, by a telephone conversation (7)
- 8. This clue is not to be believed (6)
- 9. It has a pronounced similarity to another word (7)
- 10. Takes steps to show the markings of tyres (6)
- 11. Hold back – farther back! (6)
- 12. Add to the number in the fold (8)
- 18. Nothing follows an order for task force (8)
- 20. The Government ease restrictions – a tricky problem is seen in this (6)
- 21. Men go crazy after one Shakespearean woman (6)
- 22. Circulates advertisement in press arrangement (7)
- 23 & 16 Dn. Elves of no great standing (6,6)
- 24. This shows the concentration of matter contained in the volume (7)

Down

- 1. Will certainly ruin act, if out of order (7)
- 2. Exaggerate to increase the tension (7)
- 3. Overcome – because subscription hasn't yet been paid? (6)
- 5. The more this varies, the more the heat is the same! (8)
- 6. They provide splendid cover for the capitals of rulers (6)
- 7. Take a gamble on the fellows being non-professionals (6)
- 13. Certify as satisfactory an account with favourable balance (8)
- 14. Dark times, we hear, for chivalrous characters (7)
- 15. What the jumpers did is limited (7)
- 16. See 23 Across
- 17. A fool holds fixed property of the deceased (6)
- 19. Biographical record of me in the sea in France (6)



Quick Clues:

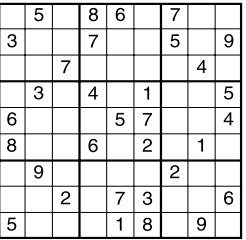
Across

- 4. Important (7)
- 8. Referee (6)
- 9. Stranded (7)
- 10. Deadly (6)
- 11. People (6)
- 12. Changeable (8)
- 18. Absurd (8)
- 20. Energy (6)
- 21. Unfold (6)
- 22. Erased (7)
- 23. Contusion (6)
- 24. By now (7)

Down

- 1. Survive (7)
- 2. Parvenu (7)
- 3. Fleet of warships (6)
- 5. Contrive (8)
- 6. Development (6)
- 7. Sinew (6)
- 13. To favour (8)
- 14. Applause (7)
- 15. Changed (7)
- 16. Wicked (6)
- 17. Give (6)
- 19. Secret (6)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	6	2	3	7	9	1	4	8
3	8	7	5	1	4	2	9	5
4	9	1	2	5	8	6	3	7
2	7	9	8	6	5	3	1	4
8	5	4	9	3	1	7	6	2
1	3	6	4	2	7	8	5	9
9	4	3	1	8	2	5	7	6
6	2	5	7	4	3	9	8	1
7	1	8	5	9	6	4	2	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Stock-market; 9 Rip; 10 Unhealthy; 11 Lacks; 13 Whistle; 14 Sounds; 16 Aitre; 18 Nitrate; 19 Light; 20 Secretary; 21 Tar; 22 Hard-hearted. Down: 2 Top; 3 Clubs; 4 Mohawk; 5 Realist; 6 Entitling; 7 Artlessness; 8 Type-setters; 12 Crustacea; 15 Dead-end; 17 Sesame; 19 Layer; 21 Tee. QUICK - Across: 1 Acknowledge; 9 Put; 10 Vigilance; 11 Recur; 13 Apparel; 14 Punish; 16 beaten; 18 Imagine; 19 cadet; 20 Tangerine; 21 Tan; 22 Traditional. Down: 2 Cut; 3 Never; 4 Wigwag; 5 Eclipse; 6 Generated; 7 Appropriate; 8 Wellingtons; 12 Container; 15 Stipend; 17 Desist; 19 Credo; 21 Tea.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. What do we call the city Den Haag?
- 2. To whom are the Old Testament Psalms traditionally ascribed?
- 3. Which US state is nicknamed the Centennial State?
- 4. Which former Blue Peter presenter was the first civilian in Britain to free-fall from five miles up?
- 5. Which race did legendary ruler Hengist command?
- 6. Which part of the body is affected by glaucoma?
- 7. Who wrote the opera Carmen?
- 8. Through which mountain range do the St Bernard Passes pass?
- 9. In which constellation is Rigel?
- 10. Which fruit comes from the tree Prunus persica?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 South Africa; 2 Hormone

Replacement Therapy; 3 South Korea;

4 A tidal wave; 5 Sherry; 6 Duke of

Marlborough; 7 1982; 8 Tangerine; 9 Mark

Twain; 10 Richard II.

Niner: NUMERICAL

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

2472 gives a song,
51942 gives a musical drama,
856232 gives a musical composition.



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DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES

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Serving up taste of Spain

New restaurant owner Imran Iqbal has that extra helping of enthusiasm and it is paying off, as MARK SHIPP finds out

TAKE an empty shop unit, add a touch of ambition, sprinkle in some themed decor and mix together with genuine Spanish fare.

Top it all off with a chef from Barcelona and you have a taste of Spain in one small corner of Walsall.

It might be one 'el' of a gamble but owner Imran Iqbal believes it is one worth taking.

For many years, Imran has set his sights on opening a Spanish-themed restaurant and has this year finally seen his vision realised.

Extensive research in his home town led Imran to believe such a concept was needed. He and business partner Azhar Nawaz visited Spain to learn about its culture, its food and its influences, and, after deciding it would be a success, even recruited chef Asad.

He's from Barcelona.

And he has 14 years experience working for a five-star hotel in the Catalanian city.

Flamenco

The venue in Goodall Street, a former bar, was not Imran's first choice, but this hidden gem is well-worth seeking out.

It is tastefully decorated to give it an authentic Spanish feel – and all Imran's own work. In fact, we half expected to be serenaded by a woman in flamenco dress playing the castanets.

The menu offers a range of tapas dishes, as well as pizza and salads, pasta, paella and risotto, even steaks and burgers and has an added desi fusion.

We chose a starter, ensalada feta tomate – that's tomato and feta salad, which we shared, but left it until our mains as the perfect accompaniment. Our mains choices were canelloni



Empty shop unit transformed to bring a taste of Spain to one small corner of Walsall



Spanish theme throughout the tastefully-decorated interior

rossini for the better half and risotto de pollo for myself, topped with parmesan cheese, succulently creamy and with a not-too-overpowering hint of pepper.

Arriba means fast in Spanish so the name Ba Ba Reeba was chosen as a play on words to associate with quick service. It was not rapid, we discovered, but the best things come to those who wait in my book, so that was not a problem.

What's more, we were equipped with a de-

vice that could order drinks or call the staff from the comfort of our own table. Unfortunately, that does not include alcohol, though unique 'halal' non-alcoholic wines are served.

Despite demolishing my own dessert, the delicious crema catalana, I spent most of the time drooling over my other half's crepes, which came with ice cream and drizzled in strawberry sauce, so both of those come highly recommended. The former is akin to creme brulee with a hard sticky piece of cara-

mel in the middle. Gorgeous. Ba Ba Reeba is not guaranteed to take off, but it deserves to, particularly if passion was any guarantee of success, as Imran has that in abundance and is determined to make it work. The food is a good start as it was delightful.

I agree there is a need for such a restaurant locally. However, the lack of alcohol could prove to be a stumbling block.

A drop of sangria certainly wouldn't go amiss with a bowl of paella or risotto, but that

shouldn't put people off either, so it remains to be seen what others make of it. Early feedback is certainly promising with many positive remarks on online review pages.

Ba Ba Reeba caters for 50 diners. It is open for lunch from noon to 2pm and from 5-11pm Sunday to Thursday, on Friday from 5pm to midnight on Friday and on Saturday from noon to 2pm and 5pm to midnight.

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This family home further benefits from a large garage, gardens with a driveway and a secluded rear garden. In more detail the entrance hall has an under-stairs storage; the lounge/diner has an open coal fire and doors to the conservatory. The master and second bedrooms have wardrobes and the bathroom has a white suite. For more information call Paul Dubberley on 01902 633323 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk

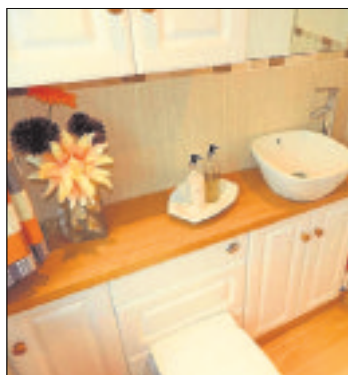


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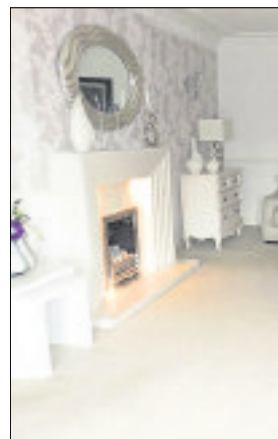
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- Gas centrally heated
- Double glazed
- 2 reception rooms, kitchen
- 3 bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Parking
- potential for extension

£400,000

Energy Rating - B

**Stafford Road
Bloxwich**

- Extended Detached Family Home
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Cloakroom, Conservatory
- Six Bedrooms, Three En-suites
- Family Bathroom, Large Driveway
- Rear Garden, No Onward Chain

£450,000

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Corporation Street Wednesbury



Offers around £140,000

Improved and upgraded is this lovely two bedroom semi detached home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises reception hall, open plan modern kitchen/diner, lounge, two double bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens (games room in rear garden) and off road parking. Energy rating D.

Deans Place Walsall



Offers around £110,000

A well presented extended, 3 bedroom semi-detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, 3 good sized bedrooms, family bathroom, rear gardens and block paved driveway. Viewing essential. Energy rating E.

Queen Street Wednesbury



Offers around £90,000

(PREVIOUSLY RENTED OUT AT £600PCM). Refurbished, upgraded and improved semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This god sized property further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted/extended kitchen, family bathroom with shower, three bedrooms and rear garden. Energy rating D.

Fallowfield Road Park Hall



Offers around £475,000

A rare opportunity to purchase a unique, one off design, brand new, executive, four bedroom detached family home in a much sought after estate, having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating & underfloor heating, CCTV and fitted intruder alarm. This ideal family home further comprises, porch, reception hall, spacious through lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, guest W.C./bathroom, four double bedrooms, 2 x ensuites and family bathroom, integral garage, driveway with electric gate providing secure off road parking. Estimated completion is set for the middle of May 2016. Awaiting energy rating. All room sizes are taken from plan not 'as built'.

Harrowby Place Willenhall



Offers around £120,000

A three bedroom traditional semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens, off road parking and carport. Energy rating E.

282 Penn Road Wolverhampton



Offers around £159,995

A luxury 2 double bedroom first floor modern apartment situated within a sought after location. This well presented apartment comprises of a good size lounge/diner with balcony, fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, 2 double bedrooms, (master bedroom with ensuite shower room) and a family bathroom. The property also benefits from double glazing, electric central heating and secure allocated car parking accessed via remote controlled security gates. Energy rating C.

Shepwell Green Willenhall



Offer around £67,500



A two bedroom second floor flat having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, central heating and no upward chain. Ideal for landlord (previously let out for £480pcm) or first time buyer this well presented property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, study/store, fitted kitchen, 2 x double bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, parking space and garage. Energy rating E.

Bransdale Close Farndale



Offers around £125,000

A lovely three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and cul-de-sac location. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating C.

Elbow Street Cradley Heath



Reduced £139,995

Redstones are delighted to bring to market this magnificent 3 bedroom 3 storey town-house which benefits from a garage which is accessed through electric gates and off street parking. It is situated within walking distance of Cradley Town Centre which boasts numerous bars, restaurants & shops including a Tesco and easy access to both the M5 & M6 motorways and within a short drive of Birmingham town centre. It also benefits from Oldhill train station which is within a few minutes of Cradley Heath. There are also a number of schools within walking distance. Energy rating C.



The Property
Ombudsman
SALES



The Property
Ombudsman
LETTINGS

Head Office

75 George street, Walsall
Weat Midlands WS1 1RA

Company No 05164020 VAT Registration No 945 2601 28

T: 01922 235 350

F: 0845 226 2844

E: info@redstones.co.uk

www.redstones.co.uk



Midlands' Leading Auctioneers

AUCTION

5TH MAY 2016

at Aston Villa Football Ground



Viewing 23rd Apr 10:45 & 25th Apr 10:45

47 Dimmocks Avenue, Bilston, Wolverhampton

A Vacant Freehold 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property that is in Need of Refurbishment Works Throughout
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

316 Birmingham New Road, Wolverhampton

A Vacant Freehold 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property Benefitting from having UPVC double glazing and electric storage heating.
Guide: £50,000 plus



Viewing 25th Apr 13:15 & 27th Apr 12:30



Viewing 25th Apr 12:30 & 27th Apr 13:15

28 Lane Road, Lanesfield
2 Bed Detached Bungalow
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000



Viewing 23rd Apr 13:45 & 25th Apr 13:45

154 Saltwells Road, Netherton
3 Bed Mid Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000



Viewing 25th Apr 11:45 & 27th Apr 14:00

97 Vicarage Rd, Wolverhampton
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £34,000 - £39,000



Viewing 23rd Apr 10:00 & 25th Apr 10:00

15 Tozer Street, Tipton
3 Bed End Terraced House
Guide: £24,000 - £29,000



Viewing 25th Apr 14:45 & 27th Apr 11:00

11 Hickman Road, Bilston
3 Bed End Terraced House
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000



Viewing 23rd Apr 15:30 & 25th Apr 15:30

14 Caroline St, West Bromwich
3 Bed Mid Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000



Viewing 25th Apr 15:45 & 27th Apr 10:00

129 Coronation Rd, Wednesbury
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000



Viewing 23rd Apr 11:30 & 25th Apr 11:30

72 Langstone Road, Dudley
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000



Viewing 23rd Apr 14:45 & 25th Apr 14:45

7 Windsor Avenue, Oldbury
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £50,000 plus



Viewing 25th Apr 14:00 & 27th Apr 11:45

1 Dresden Close, Wolverhampton
3 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000



Viewing 23rd Apr 13:00 & 25th Apr 13:00

2 Yew Tree Hills, Dudley
3 Bed Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000



Viewing 23rd Apr 12:15 & 25th Apr 12:15

17 Windsor Crescent, Netherton
3 Bed Mid Terraced House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000



Viewing 25th Apr 10:00 & 27th Apr 15:45

79 Pargeter Street, Walsall
2 Bed End Terraced House
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000



Viewing 25th Apr 11:00 & 27th Apr 14:45

308 Deans Rd, Wolverhampton
2 Bed Semi Detached House
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000



Viewing 23rd Apr 16:30 & 25th Apr 16:30

100 Barford Road, Edgbaston
4 Bed Mid Terraced House
Guide: £50,000 plus



Viewing 25th Apr 13:00 & 27th Apr 13:00

68 Maxwell Rd, Wolverhampton
3 Bed Residential Investment House
Current Gross Income: £5,100 pa
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

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0121 233 5046

A conveniently situated and well presented home



THIS well presented three bedroom end terraced house conveniently situated in this popular residential area in Kingsley Street, Walsall needs to be viewed to be fully appreciated.

On a no through road, it is for sale through Fraser Wood at £107,500.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a small hallway/lobby, a front reception room with a bay window and a Louis-style fireplace with a coal-effect gas fire and varnished wooden flooring, an inner hallway with stairs, a rear reception room with a log-effect gas fire and varnished wooden flooring, a kitchen with a gas hob and an electric oven, a lobby, side covered passageway, downstairs bathroom, three bedrooms and a rear garden. For further information contact Fraser Wood on 01922 627686 or visit www.fraser-wood.co.uk



Edwardian property so full of character

THIS six bedroom Edwardian detached home with an annexe in Station Street, Cheslyn Hay, was built in 1902. On a generous plot, it has accommodation over three floors, and is for sale through Goodchilds at offers in excess of £550,000.

With ample off -road parking, it has a grand entrance hallway, sitting room, lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner, utility room, conservatory, guest WC, access to a cellar, a galleried landing, six double bedrooms, two family bathrooms and an en suite to the master bedroom.

The property also has gas central heating, majority double glazing. In addition there is a detached annexe to the rear of the plot. Contact Goodchilds on 01543 500011.



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AUCTION

5TH MAY 2016

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137 Lots

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Vacant Residential Properties
Residential Investment Properties
Vacant Commercial Properties
Commercial Investment Properties
Land/Development Opportunities

ENTRIES NOW INVITED FOR OUR NEXT AUCTION

at Aston Villa Football Ground



79 Pargeter Street, Walsall
2 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £19,000-£24,000



93 Mulberry Road, Bloxwich
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £64,000-£68,000



129 Coronation Road, Wednesbury
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000-£54,000



Granville House, Wednesbury
Former Retirement Home Considered Suitable for Alternative Uses, Subject to Planning
Guide: £350,000-£375,000



54-55 George Street, Walsall
A Pair of Dilapidated Properties, Considered Suitable For Alternative Uses, Subject to Planning
Guide: £30,000-£40,000



154 High Street, Bloxwich
Town Centre Mixed Retail & Residential Investment
Current Rental Income: £7,298pa
Guide: £55,000-£65,000



*Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots

**For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website

L & S PRESTIGE ESTATES

46 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall, WV12 4JQ



MUST VIEW



£365,000

CRAB LANE, WILLENHALL

Prestigious Extended Four Bed Detached Having Lounge, Sitting Room, Dining Kitchen, Conservatory, Utility, Galleried Landing, Master With En-Suite, Family Bathroom, Garage, Substantial Plot.

ESSINGTON



Offers Over £350,000

SNEYD LANE, ESSINGTON

Substantial Three Bed Detached Bungalow Having Imposing Entrance Hall, 38ft Through Lounge, Impressive Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Utility, Study/Playroom, Two Bathrooms, D/G, C/H, Garage, Generous Plot.

COPPICE FARM



£269,995

LOCHALSH GR, COPPICE FARM

Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/ Diner with Utility, Conservatory, Shower Room. UPVC D/G, C/H, Detached Garage And Enclosed Rear Garden.

POOL HAYES



£259,995

RAVENSCROFT RD, WILLENHALL

Three Bed Detached Having Hallway, Through Lounge, Spacious Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor W.C, Three Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, Loft Room. DG, GCH, Double Garage, Extensive Rear Garden

SHORT HEATH



£190,000

EZEKIEL LANE, WILLENHALL

Spacious Semi Detached Bungalow Comprises Of Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, D/Room, Family Bathroom, Two Ground Floor And One First Floor Bedroom, D/G & G/C/H. Potential Building Plot STTP.

WILLENHALL



£184,995

SOMERFORD PLACE, W-HALL

Spacious Three/ Four Bed Detached Property Having Entrance Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Generous Kitchen/ Diner, Shower Room, Cellar, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/G, G/C/H, Off Road Parking.

WILLENHALL



£184,995

MOOSE LANE, WILLENHALL

Two Bed Detached Bungalow On A Corner Plot Having Porch, Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Modern Breakfast Kitchen, Refitted Wet Room, D/G, C/H, Detached Outbuilding, Extensive Rear Garden/Yard.

WILLENHALL



£169,995

BEECH RD, WILLENHALL

Extended Three Bed Semi Detached Dormer Bungalow. 21ft Spacious Lounge/Diner, Breakfast Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/G, Gas C/H, Garage/ Workshop, Off Road Parking, Carport And Rear Garden.

ESSINGTON



£135,000

THE GABLES, W-HAMPTON

Two Bed Mid Town House Having Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Family Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, UPVC Double Glazing And Garage. Sought After Location.

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DARLASTON



£105,000

PINFOLD STREET EXT, DARLASTON

Two Bed Semi Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Diner, Ground Floor W.C And Modern Family Bathroom. The Property Also Benefits From UPVC D/G And G/C/H, Generous Rear Garden.

WILLENHALL



£127,500

SHEPWELL GREEN, W-HALL

Three Bed Semi Detached Property Having Entrance Porch, Inner Hallway, Lounge Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking And A Private Garden.

SHORT HEATH



£105,000

CLIFT CLOSE, WILLENHALL

Three Bed End Town House Having Porch, Entrance Hall, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge, Ground Floor W.C And Family Bathroom. The Property Also Benefits From UPVC D/G, Majority G/C/H And Enclosed Rear Garden.

PORTOBELLO



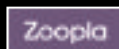
£104,950

CLEVELAND CL, W-TON

Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property, Lounge/ Diner, Ground Floor Bathroom, Double Glazed & Central Heated, Driveway and Enclosed Rear Garden. Viewing Recommended.

Willenhall 01902 606595

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Martin Grove
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An EXECUTIVE SIX/SEVEN BEDROOM DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE SITUATED IN THE POPULAR VILLAGE OF GREAT WRLEY. THREE RECEPTION ROOMS, LARGE KITCHEN, 6 BEDROOMS AND HOBBY ROOM/BEDROOM 7, 4 ENSUITE AND FAMILY BATHROOM, UTILITY AND DOUBLE GARAGE. NOT TO BE MISSED!
OFFERS AROUND: £480,000

Main Street
Walsall



RARE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT VILLAGE LOCATION SEMI RURAL. Character Two/Three Bedroom Grade Two Listed Cottage. Entrance Hall, Two Large Reception Rooms, Inner Hall With Stairs, Study/Storage Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms (Bedroom Three Currently Accessed By Bedroom One) And Large Family Bathroom.
OFFERS AROUND: £400,000

Gorway Close
Walsall



IMMACULATELY PRESENTED FOUR BEDROOM FAMILY HOME LOCATED IN A QUIET CUL-DE-SAC IN THE HIGHLY REGARDED 'HIGHGATE' AREA OF WALSALL. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Recently Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs W.C., Four Bedrooms And Modern Family Bathroom.
OFFERS AROUND: £300,000

Tarn Close
Willenhall



New build 3 bedroom end terrace entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, downstairs wc, en-suite to main bedroom, bathroom, driveway providing off road parking, front and rear gardens, double glazing and central heating.
call Paul Dubberley 01902 633323 for details.
OFFERS AROUND: £169,995

Bloxwich Road South
Willenhall



STAR BUY EXTENDED FAMILY HOME NOT TO BE MISSED Three Bedroom Extended Family Home In Willenhall Briefly Comprising Of: Porch, Hall, Lounge, Modern Kitchen, Conservatory, Utility Room, Three Bedrooms, Ensuite Shower Room, Family Bathroom, Garage, Front Driveway And Rear Garden! NO CHAIN CALL 01902 633323! EPC - D
OFFERS AROUND: £140,000

New Road
Willenhall



UNIQUE APARTMENT IN CONVERTED DEVELOPMENT IMMEDIATELY PRESENTED SHOW HOME STYLE Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen Diner With Island, Two Good Sized Bedrooms (Master With Ensuite Shower Room), And Family Bathroom. EPC - C
OFFERS AROUND: £130,000

Bushbury Road
Wolverhampton



3 Bedroom end terraced house with no upward chain, has to be viewed to appreciate. 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing (where specified) parking and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £120,000

Great Bridge Road
Bilston



3 Bedroom traditional semi detached house with no upward chain, main and side entrances, kitchen, lounge, dining room, shower room, part double glazing and central heating (both where specified) driveway and garden, note we hold a mining report on file and available to view.
OFFERS AROUND: £87,500

Rocket Pool Drive
Bilston



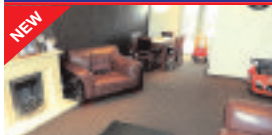
New to market 3 Bedroom terraced property with no upward chain and ready to move straight into, entrance porch and hallway, lounge and dining room, modern kitchen, modern bathroom, good size bedrooms, central heating and double glazing (where specified)
OFFERS AROUND: £110,000

St. Chads Road
Bilston



New to market No upward chain on this 2 bedroom detached bungalow, entrance porch and hallway, 2 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/diner, shower room, central heating and double glazing (where specified) driveway providing off road parking and rear garden, call now to view.
OFFERS AROUND: £119,950

Lawnside Green
Bilston



New to market 3 Bedroom terraced house on the popular Stowall estate, large size rooms and comprising, driveway, entrance porch and hallway, downstairs wc, lounge/diner, modern kitchen, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, rear garden, no upward chain, call now for details.
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000

Spring Road
Wolverhampton



New to market Good size and potential with this 3 bedroom end terrace house and no upward chain, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, good size bedrooms, garden to rear and the land to side including income from the advertising board, call now for a viewing. Please note we hold a mining report on the property.
OFFERS AROUND: £129,950

Bradleys Lane
Coseley



NEW Immaculate and refurbished 3 bedroom traditional detached house, entrance porch and hallway, lounge, beautiful kitchen/diner, conservatory, downstairs wc, modern bathroom, central heating and double glazing, garage and driveway, front and rear gardens, no upward chain, call Paul Dubberley to view.
OFFERS AROUND: £200,000

Constantine Way
Bilston



An immaculate Detached Residence on the popular Bridgefields Estate. Gas Central Heating, UPVc Double Glazing & No Upward Chain. Spacious Family accommodation Briefly Comprising: Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage.
ASKING PRICE OF £169,995

Lawnside Green
Bilston



Size Matters!! Immaculate 2 bedroom semi detached house comprising, entrance porch and hallway, lounge, downstairs wc, open plan kitchen diner, conservatory, modern bathroom, good size garage, driveway and rear garden, central heating and double glazing. Call now to arrange a viewing - 01902 494966!
OFFERS AROUND: £115,000

Paul Pursehouse Road
Bilston



Great size and condition With this 3 bedroom semi detached house, entrance hallway, lounge/diner, modern kitchen, utility area, lovely modern bathroom, wc, double glazing and central heating, concrete print driveway, good size rear garden, no upward chain, call now to arrange your viewing.
OFFERS AROUND: £127,500

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Bonner Grove, Walsall

- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Communal Gardens
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Viewing Essential

Monthly Rental Of £475

Lingmoor Grove, Aldridge

- Ground Floor 2 Bedroom Apartmen
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Shower Over Bath

Monthly Rental Of £495

Wyre Close, Walsall Wood

- Two bedroom end
- Part gas central heating
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Communal Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £500

Church Way, High Heath

- Two Bedroom
- Semi Detached
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom

Monthly Rental Of £500

Brickyard Road, Aldridge

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Communal Hallway
- Allocated Parking
- Sought After Location
- Double Glazing
- Economy 7 Heating
- Sorry No Dhss

Monthly Rental Of £550

Parkhouse Grove, Aldridge

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Master Ensuite
- Popular Aldridge Location
- Must Be Viewed!
- Sorry No Dhss.
- Viewings Highly Recommended
- No Pets/ Smokers
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Communal Parking

Monthly Rental Of £575

Castle Close, Brownhills

- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Large Lounge
- Modern Kitchen
- Open Plan Staircase
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Monthly Rental Of £575

Blithfield Road, Brownhills

- Two Bedroom Terraced House
- Lounge
- Modern Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Easily Maintained Back Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Quiet Location
- Sorry No Dhss

Monthly Rental Of £625

GOODCHILDS AWARDED ANOTHER GOLD FOR LETTING AGENT OF THE YEAR 2015...

...IT'S NOT LUCK WHEN YOU WIN EVERY YEAR

Springfields, Rushall

- Entrance Hall
- Guest Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

Monthly Rental Of £525

Hilary Drive, Walsall

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Popular Aldridge Location
- Modern Kitchen
- Large Lounge
- Three Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Large rear Garden
- Front Driveway
- Cul-de-sac Location
- Sorry No Dhss

Monthly Rental Of £600

Hawthorn Road, Shelfield

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Modern Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Monthly Rental Of £700

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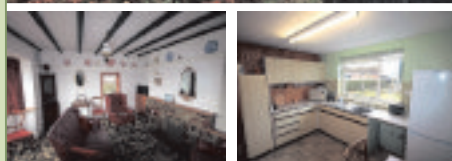




Walsall
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Springhill Road, Burntwood

- Spacious Detached Three Bedroom House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor Bedroom/Study
- Family Kitchen
- Further Two Bedrooms
- Newly Fitted Bathroom
- Downstairs WC
- Ample Off Road Parking & Detached Garage
- Extensive Rear Garden with Summer House
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

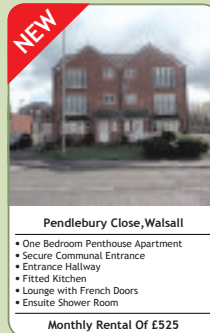
Monthly Rental Of £750



Wood Lane, Willenhall

- Three Bedroom Three Storey Town House
- Fitted Kitchen
- Large Lounge
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Ensuite Shower Room
- Rear Garden
- Shared Driveway
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Sorry No DHSS

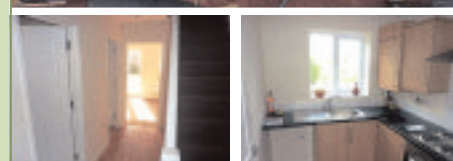
Monthly Rental Of £695



Pendlebury Close, Walsall

- One Bedroom Penthouse Apartment
- Secure Communal Entrance
- Entrance Hallway
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge with French Doors
- Ensuite Shower Room

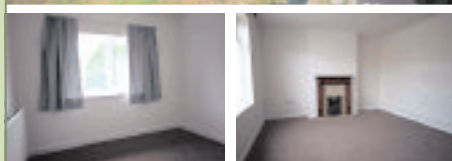
Monthly Rental Of £525



Woodall Street, Walsall

- New Build Three Bedroom Detached Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge
- Guest W.C.
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower

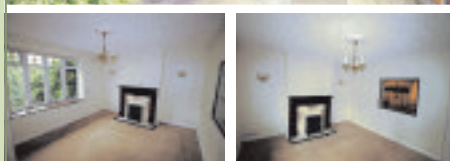
Monthly Rental Of £695



Lane Avenue, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Semi
- Refurbished Throughout
- AVAILABLE 04.05.2016
- New Fitted Kitchen
- New Bathroom
- Downstairs W.C.
- Lounge
- Front & Rear Gardens
- D. Glazing & G.C. Heating
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

Monthly Rental Of £575



Deepmore Avenue, Walsall

- Three Bed Semi-Detached
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Extended Kitchen/Diner
- Utility Room
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets, Smokers
- Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £550



Church Place, Walsall

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Entrance Hallway
- Spacious Lounge/Diner
- Open Plan Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower Over
- Gas Central Heating

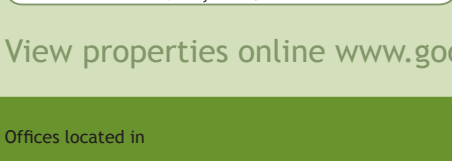
Monthly Rental Of £450



Slaney Road, Walsall

- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Secure Intercom Access
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Minutes From M6 Motorway
- Sorry No DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450



Envile Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Popular Turnberry Estate
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge with Patio Doors
- Bathroom
- Electric Heating
- New Carpets Throughout
- Front & Rear Gardens

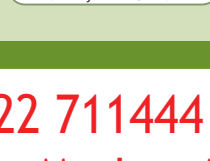
Monthly Rental Of £525



Prince Street, Walsall

- Three Bedroom End Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Recently Refurbished
- Corner Plot

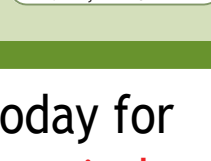
Monthly Rental Of £450



Margaret Road, Walsall

- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- Bathroom with Shower Over

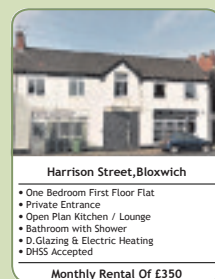
Monthly Rental Of £395



Wolverhampton Road, Walsall

- One Bedroom Flat
- Bloxwich Town Centre
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Loft Bedroom

Monthly Rental Of £350



Harrison Street, Bloxwich

- One Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Private Entrance
- Open Plan Kitchen / Lounge
- Bathroom with Shower
- D. Glazing & Electric Heating
- DHSS Accepted

Monthly Rental Of £350

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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

WILLENHALL HONEYBOURNE WAY

- Superb Modern Semi Detached
- Popular Location
- Through Lounge / Dining Room
- Conservatory, Re-fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Garage
- Pleasant Gardens, Driveway
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing



£165,000



MANAGER'S CHOICE

WILLENHALL NEWENT CLOSE

- Impressive Detached Property
- Spacious Lounge, Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Luxury Re-Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
- Long Driveway
- Front And Rear Gardens



OFFERS OVER £146,000



WILLENHALL MALVERN CLOSE

- Deceptively Spacious Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms, Bathroom



- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage, Driveway
- Pleasant Front And Rear Gardens

£135,000



COPPICE FARM AMBLESIDE GROVE

- Modern Style Semi Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge • Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory • Double Glazing



- Gas Central Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Gardens • No Upward Chain
- For Clients Over 55 years old

£130,000



NEW INVENTION FLETCHER ROAD

- For Sale By Modern Method Of Auction, Starting Bid Price £122,000 Plus Reservation Fee
- Three Bedroom Link Detached House



- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating System
- Driveway

STARTING BID £122,000



WILLENHALL WALSALL ROAD

- Beautifully Presented Modern End Terrace
- Hall, Guests WC
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms, Bathroom



- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating System
- Rear Gardens
- Garage To The Rear

£115,000



NEW INSTRUCTION

NEW INVENTION BRAMBLE CLOSE

- Well Appointed Modern Semi Detached
- Popular Cul De Sac
- Lounge, Re-fitted Kitchen
- Three Good Size Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Bathroom, Integral Garage,
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing
- Front And Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain



£139,950



WILLENHALL GIPSY LANE

- Spacious Traditional Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Double Bedrooms



- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing
- Long Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS OVER £115,000



WILLENHALL ASHMORE LAKE ROAD

- Well Presented Edwardian Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen
- Excellent Bathroom
- Three Bedrooms



- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing
- Driveway
- Pleasant Rear Gardens

OFFERS OVER £110,000



BENTLEY POPLAR AVENUE

- Much Improved Spacious First Floor Maisonette
- Hall, Lounge
- Two Excellent Double Bedrooms
- Re-fitted Kitchen



- Re-fitted Shower Room
- Rear Gardens, Driveway
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing

£79,950



ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE

- Superb Four Bedroom Detached with Garage
- Open plan lounge, dining room
- Family room • Refitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom • En-suite • D Glazing • Gas CH



WILLENHALL RAVENSCROFT ROAD

- Impressive 3 Bedroom Detached
- Lounge • Dining Room • Spacious Kitchen/diner
- Utility Room With Wc • Bathroom, En-suite
- Two Garages • Large Corner Plot Gardens

£340,000

£235,000



WILLENHALL LAKELOT CLOSE

- An Impressive Beautifully Presented 4 Bed Recently Built Detached
- Hall, Guests Wc
- Lounge, Dining Room



- Excellent Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- En-suite • Garage & Driveway
- Gardens

Offers Over £215,000



WILLENHALL DARVEL ROAD

- Extended Three Bedrooms Link Detached
- Through Lounge / Dining Room • Breakfast Kitchen
- Garage, Driveway, Impressive Gardens
- Predominantly Double Glazing • Gas CH

£165,000



WILLENHALL SPINDLE TREE RISE

- Superb Three Storey Mid Terrace • No Chain
- Hall, Lounge • Kitchen, Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms • Bathroom, Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating • Driveway, Rear Gardens

£140,000



NEW INVENTION BALMORAL DRIVE

- Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Through Lounge • Kitchen • Conservatory
- Loft Room • Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Gardens

£130,000



HADLEY HEATH MARDEN CLOSE

- Modern Style Semi Detached • Large Plot
- Hall, Lounge • Re-fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms • Re-fitted Bathroom, Driveway
- Gas Central Heating System • Double Glazing

£129,950



WILLENHALL MEMORIAL CLOSE

- Greatly Improved 2 Beds Modern Style Semi
- Hall, Lounge, Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Conservatory



- Newly Re-fitted Bathroom
- Gas CH • No Chain
- Double Glazing
- Car Port, Drive, Rear Garden

£120,000



WILLENHALL HONEYBOURNE WAY

- Modern 2 Bed Semi Detached Property
- Lounge • Re-fitted Kitchen • Re-fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Driveway
- Front And Rear Gardens

£119,950



WILLENHALL NEWLANDS CLOSE

- First Floor Two Bedrooms Maisonette
- Hall, Lounge • Kitchen • Bathroom
- Double Glazing • Gas Central Heating System
- Garage • No Upward Chain

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DRIVETIME

Awards for all that is so great in the car industry

Autocar will be honouring the very best that the car industry has to offer at this year's Autocar Awards on May 24 at Silverstone.

The new-look event will recognise the best new cars on sale, as well as paying tribute to the engineers, designers and innovators that are at the forefront of the industry, both in the UK and around the world.

There are nine new categories in this year's Autocar Awards, with 12 in total. Half of the categories will recognise the best cars on sale, while the other six will celebrate the best personalities that make the industry great.



Engineering

Some of the new categories include the new Design Hero category, which will pay tribute to the person behind the best new designs in the world of cars, while the world of engineering will be honoured with the new Engineering Hero category.

The world of racing will also be recognised with the Motorsport Hero award, to be presented to the best performer on the track or rally course from the last year.

Autocar is also looking closer to home, and is recognising the best that the UK has to offer. Recipients of the Autocar's Outstanding UK Leaders title will have contributed to their company's success in the UK, be that in sales, brand building, marketing or other notable areas.

As well as the new categories, Autocar will also be awarding the established Issigonis Trophy and the Sturme Award. The Issigonis Trophy, named after the creator of the iconic British car, the Mini, is the highest accolade awarded to an individual by Autocar. It recognises the person who has made the most outstanding contribution to the automotive industry during the previous 12 months. The Sturme Award is named after the

founding editor of Autocar magazine, and can be awarded to a person, company, design or process, as selected by Autocar's team of judges.

As well as people, Autocar is also honouring the very best new and used cars on sale today. The winner of the Readers' Champion poll will be revealed, with members of the public having voted on autocar.co.uk in their thousands for their favourite. The winners from Autocar's Handling Day will be presented with their awards, while all the cars to have scored a five-star rating in the thorough and demanding Autocar road test will have their achievement recognised.

Another new category is the Innovation Award, which marks a new piece of technology launched in the last year. The best second-hand car will also receive Autocar's Used Car Hero award.

The final award pays tribute to the cars launched in the last year that have redefined their class in one form. These will be named Autocar's Game Changers.

Jim Holder, editorial director of Autocar, said: "There is so much that is great about the car industry, in the UK and beyond, and the Autocar Awards will look to recognise that.

"We will be paying tribute to great new cars, the best innovators and their creations, cars that change the landscape around them and designers that are constantly finding new ways to improve the look of their cars.

"As well as all this we will be naming the Readers' Champion, which was chosen by the readers of Autocar. Voting was fantastically close, and the winner will be rightfully proud of their achievement.

"Finally, we will be handing out the two biggest awards that Autocar can bestow – the Issigonis Trophy and the Sturme Award."

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CR-V 1.6 i-DTEC SE (Honda Connect) 2WD Manual	£26,610.00	£3,304.78	31%	£3,000.00	£2,000.00	£18,305.22	£249	£12,063.75	£29,332.53	5.9%	5.77%	£10	37 months	10,000 miles	6p/mile

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Fuel consumption figures for the CR-V SE 1.6 i-DTEC 2WD Manual mpg (l/100km): Urban 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 64.2 (4.4). CO₂ emissions: 115g/km.

Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience. Model Shown: CR-V SE 1.6 i-DTEC 2WD Manual in Lunar Silver Metallic at £26,610 On The Road (OTR) Terms and Conditions: New retail CR-V ordered from 01 April 2016 to 30 June 2016 and registered by 30 June 2016. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Not to be used along with any other offers currently available. *Honda Deposit contribution: £3,000 Honda deposit contribution on CR-V models purchased through Honda Aspirations. Brindley Honda deposit contribution £2000 (exclusive to Brindley Honda). Honda Aspirations (PCP): Minimum customer deposit 0%, maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Brindley Garages Ltd trading as Brindley Honda are credit brokers, not lenders. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. **5 Years' Servicing includes: All scheduled servicing, as detailed in the vehicle's service book, will be covered for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. 5 Years' Servicing is optional. It is being offered for £555 including VAT (usual value £1,430 including VAT, resulting in a £875 saving for the customer) and is available to finance or non-finance customers. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the package remains with the vehicle.

Lexus makes bold statement

By Ian Donaldson

THERE'LL be no mistaking the new Lexus RX200t at the golf club, from the front, most certainly.

This fourth generation large, luxury SUV from Toyota's posh division is no shrinking violet in the looks department.

The vast radiator grille makes what Lexus calls a 'powerful visual statement' and will ensure it's easy to pick out from the sea of Range Rovers, Audi Q7s and BMW X5s that are this car's natural competition.

To these eyes this new-found visual boldness works a treat, toning itself down a little as the gaze moves along the side of the car – all dramatic swoops and swerves – before

concluding in a tail that picks up the angled theme of the front. Inside, things are more typically Lexus. That means an almost pared back feel, using leather and high grade plastics in a combination that quietly tells of good taste and attention to detail.

It was plenty good enough to impress the owner of a nearly new Range Rover Sport who came along for the ride, especially when he discovered his new baby cost half as much again as his recent driveway addition.

In fact the RX200t range starts at £39,995 for an S model fitted with the same 2.0 litre petrol engine of the plusher Luxury version (£45,995) and tops out with the £57,995 RX 450h Premier. That version comes with the other engine choice in this new RX range, a 3.5 litre V6 petrol engine that combines with an electric motor to produce a total of 308 horsepower and an official fuel consumption figure (54.3mpg) that shames the harder working 2.0 litre engine in the test car.

That's rated at a mere 36mpg officially and managed just 28mpg in more than 500 miles of mixed motoring, none of it taken at much of a hurry.

The least expensive way of moving to the larger engine with electric assist is the £46,995 RX 450h SE but with a large, heavy body to move about that 50mpg-plus figure is likely to remain a distant dream.

Which points up an obvious omission in this new RX range. Where is the diesel; the power plant of choice for most UK and European buyers of big cars?

The answer is that places where the RX sells best – the States, for instance – simply don't buy diesels, sticking instead to petrol. That alone is going to limit the attractions of the car here in the UK, where hardly any Range Rovers, for instance, are sold without a diesel under the bonnet.



.....
This fourth generation large, luxurious SUV from Toyota's posh division is no shrinking violet in the looks department
.....

But, if you can make the sums add up, the RX200t will provide lots that's good about big car motoring. And it'll do it for years on end without ever going wrong and be serviced for you by a dealer who is part of a select band that tops the poll for customer satisfaction so regularly they ought to have won the cup outright by now.

Most obvious plus point is the amount of space inside the RX, with genuine stretching room in the rear and a huge boot too.

And it does all feel rather fine into the bargain. Rides well too and goes far better than you'd ever expect with such a

smallish engine doing the work. It can get a bit vocal if pressed but exercise a little restraint and the auto gears will propel you in a manner befitting a car made to shrink big mileages.

It won't thrill its driver as the miles go by, but it's not that sort of car. Better to enjoy the trappings of luxury, from a sat nav with an enormous display (but controlled by a fiddly control) to electrically warmed and cooled front seats, powered tailgate, adaptive cruise control, auto dipping headlights and lights that show you the puddles near the doors before you step into them.

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public & legal notices

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Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)
The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planningservices@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1DG. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. **Please note:** Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

16/0354 Mid-Counties Cooperative FOR: INSTALLATION OF 1 X FASCIA SIGN AND 1 X PROJECTING SIGN, AT: COFFEE REPUBLIC, 1 SISTER DORA BUILDINGS, THE BRIDGE, WALSALL, WS1 1LW

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general

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10 Personals

personal

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George Worrall - first secretary



Ted Vizard - 'peace season' boss



Mick McCarthy won the Championship



Current boss Kenny Jackett - 12th on list

Kenny manages to make top list

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett is the 17th longest-serving manager in the country - and there's a team's worth in front of him for service at Molineux.

Of the club's 28 permanent chiefs since their formation in 1877, Jackett, with nearly three years at the helm, is 12th.

Initially the Wolves team was selected by a committee, headed up by the club secretary. George Worrall was the first for seven years and eight months from August 1887 to May 1885, with Jack Addenbrooke replacing him that August.

He is still the longest-serving boss in Wolves' history, with a 36 years and 10 months reign and led Wolves to the FA Cup twice.

The club appointed their first full-time manager, George Jobey in June 1922. He lasted nearly two years before Albert Hoskins was brought in, while Fred Scotchbrook lasted just over a year.

Wembley

Major Frank Buckley arrived in July 1927 and his 15 years and eight months saw the club reach the First Division, finishing runners-up twice in the top flight. A 4-1 defeat to Portsmouth at Wembley saw them lose the 1939 FA Cup final, but they did win the 1942 League 'War' Cup.

Ted Vizard came on board in April 1944, leading them to third in the first 'peace time' season of 1946-47.

Come the summer of 1948, his assistant Stan Cullis would take charge, going on to become the club's most successful manager and make Wolves the biggest team in the country. Three First Division titles, two FA Cups and one Charity Shield came their way along with the first foray into European football in what is now the Champions League. He was

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Craig Birch

Longest-serving Wolves managers:

- 1: Jack Addenbrooke (August 1885-June 1922) 35 years 10 months;
- 2: Stan Cullis (June 1948-September 1964) 16 years three months;
- 3: Major Frank Buckley (July 1927-March 1944) 15 years eight months;
- 4: George Worrall (August 1877-May 1885) Seven years eight months;
- 5: Bill McGarry (November 1968-May 1976) Seven years six months;
- 6: Graham Turner (October 1986-March 1994) Seven years five months;

- 7: Mick McCarthy (July 2006-February 2012) Five years seven months;
- 8: Ted Vizard (April 1944-May 1948) Three years 11 months;
- 9: Dave Jones (January 2001-November 2004) Three years nine months;
- 10: Ronnie Allen (September 1965-November 1968) Three years two months;
- 11: John Barnwell (November 1978-January 1982) Three years two months;
- 12: Kenny Jackett (May 2013-Present) Two years 10 months.

sacked in September 1964 and the club were relegated that season. Andy Beattie was in charge when they went down, he left in September 1965, with Ronnie Allen taking them back up in 1967.

Another purple patch came under Bill McGarry, who left First Division rivals Ipswich Town to take over from the sacked Allen in November 1968. His seven-and-a-half year reign saw Wolves lift the Texaco Cup in 1971, before losing the UEFA Cup final to Tottenham Hotspur 3-2 on aggregate.

But McGarry was axed when the club was relegated in 1976. His No 2, Sammy Chung, took over and restored them to the First Division at the first attempt, later making way for John Barnwell in November 1978. He delivered Wolves' last major trophy, the League Cup in 1980.

Wolves went into almost-terminal decline under the ownership of the Bhatti brothers. Barnwell resigned and the team were relegated under Ian Greaves, although Graham Hawkins did take them back into the top-flight. He left after they went down again, with Tommy Docherty later shown the door as they headed for three relegations in a row. McGarry lasted just

61 days of his second spell, with chief scout Sammy Chapman pushed into the role. Brian Little then had a spell as caretaker.

Graham Turner's appointment dragged Wolves off their knees, overseeing two promotions and the Sherpa Van Trophy win at Wembley in 1988.

Sir Jack Hayward bought the club and vowed to restore them to the top-flight again, with Turner removed for former England coach Graham Taylor in March 1994. Taylor, Mark McGhee and Colin Lee all spent Sir Jack's millions and failed to deliver, before Dave Jones got it right through the play-offs in 2003.

They were relegated after one season in the Premier League and Jones was sacked in November 2004, with another former England chief in Glenn Hoddle named as his successor.

He stepped down in May 2006, paving the way for Mick McCarthy's arrival. He took them up as champions and kept them in the Premier League for two campaigns.

Terry Connor, the ill-fated Stale Solbakken and Dean Saunders couldn't prevent a double relegation, with Jackett arriving in May 2013 as Wolves began life in League One.



Sir Jack and Dave Jones celebrate promotion



Graham Turner and legend Steve Bull



Bill McGarry had a successful first spell



John Barnwell with the League Cup in 1980



Owner Steve Morgan turned to both Stale Solbakken and Dean Saunders after McCarthy's reign ended. Both proved disastrous appointments



Former England boss Glenn Hoddle had an unsuccessful Molineux spell



Whitewash as Aldridge relegated

IN the Premier Division of the Aldridge District Snooker League, Aldridge Social were mathematically relegated to division one when they succumbed to another whitewash away to Cannock Cons B.

This kept their slim title challenge alive with a 5-0 home victory with comfortable wins for Daniel Eaton-Lees, Nathan Aston, Dan Ward, Paul Dobson and Shaun Eaton-Lees.

St Johns defeated local rivals Landywood SC A 3-2 at home in a deciding frame to edge closer to the title with wins for most wins youngster Jack Harris, Steve Barton and the decider from Stuart Langford after Landywood had forced a decider with wins for Andy Evans and Dave Turner. Champions Wednesfield Cons have more or less guaranteed a third place finish when they beat mid-table Pelsall Social A 4-1 at home with wins for Lee Thomson, Tony Davis (43 and 37), Paul Harrison (44) and Lee Payne as Pelsall avoided a whitewash through Pete Griffiths.

In Division One leaders Bentley Moor A maintained their 12 point advantage at the top of the table with a 4-1 away win at basement boys Birchills with solid wins for most wins man Phil Bush, Scott McGregor, Dave Boucher and Mark Archer as Birchills hit back through Gary Hall.

Second placed Bloxwich Memorial B kept the pressure on when they beat Lichfield Road 4-1 at home with wins for Bob Davis, Darren Davis, Charlie Fletcher and Martin Reilly clinching victory as Darren Catell ensured the visitors went home with a point by winning one of the opening frames of the night. Third placed Wednesfield Cons B edged closer to promotion when they beat one of their closest rivals Bentley Moor B 3-2 in a deciding frame with wins for John Schneider, Pete Slatcher and Russell Powers.

Elodie starts ball rolling for Team Broadway success

IN the first round of the Nuneaton Junior Swimming League, Team Broadway secured no less than 28 first places.

In the first event of the gala, Elodie Rollins set the ball rolling when she won the 10-year 50m freestyle, followed by a win in the 25m butterfly.

Blake Webb continued the streak with a hat-trick of wins in the 50m freestyle and 25m freestyle and butterfly. Not to be outdone, Jensen Proctor followed with his own personal hat-trick, winning the 11-year 50m backstroke and butterfly and the 12-year-old backstroke.

George Pattinson won the 11-year 50m freestyle and breaststroke and Matthias Henry won his 12-year freestyle and butterfly races. In the nine-year-old events, Chloe Mallon won the 25m butterfly with Robyn Dolan taking the freestyle and Georgia Archer the backstroke.

Rhiannon Powell swam to victory in the 10-year backstroke with Amy Robathan, Natalia Tura, Isabel Clarke, Emily Matthews, Courtney Bleakley, Adam Guild, Ewan Terry, Matthew Dowd and Rhys Peters all helping the team to win 12 relay events.

Carroll's on the oche for England

WEST Midlands darters featured for England at the annual BDO British International Championships.

Scotland played host for the three-country event, with a trio of Black Country throwers representing England. Shifnal's Steven Ritchie also turned out for Scotland.

Four titles were on offer over a busy weekend at the Glenrothes Recreation and Social Club, with three of England's sides claiming victory.

Tipton's Jamie Hughes and debutant Shaun Carroll both featured in the men's tournament, with Ritchie taking his place in the home line-up. Wales took the honours overall.

Darts

England started out with an 8-4 defeat against the Welsh. Hughes, a World Championship semi-finalist, lost 4-2 to Wayne Warren.

Bloxwich's Carroll, a West Midlands county player, made a successful bow with a 4-2 victory against Jim Williams.

Ritchie had figured in the Scots' 6-6 draw with Wales, but was seen off in the last leg by Warren. Scotland and England then played out a 6-6 draw with Ritchie defeated again, this time by a 4-1 margin to 2015 world champion Scott Mitchell.

Hughes bounced back in style with a 4-1 success against Steven Mitchell, while Carroll made it two wins from two with a 4-1 vanquishing of Craig Baxter.

Wolverhampton's Owen Maiden also made his debut for England's boys team and, like Carroll, came home with a perfect record.

First the 15-year-old appeared in a 3-1 verdict over Wales, with play staged over a best-of-five format. He notched a 3-1 win over Cavan Phillips.

Then the Wednesfield teenager returned to the oche to take on Scot Nathan Girvan and again prevailed 3-1 as England rolled over 3-1 for a second time.

Wood's semi on knife-edge after draw

Long Eaton United 1 Walsall Wood 2 WOOD went home with all three points courtesy of an Ashley Jackson brace on his first full game, the winner in stoppage time from the penalty spot.

After a quiet first 45 minutes, the game came to life after the break, the deadlock being broken after 61 minutes before an equaliser with just five minutes left by Long Eaton skipper Paolo Piliero. In the final minute of injury time, Jackson slotted home the winner after Max Black was brought down.

Lye Town 2 Walsall Wood 2 IT'S all square going into next Thursday's second leg of the Polymac League Cup semi-final.

Ben Billingham gave Lye Town a 30th minute lead but Harry Harris fired in a searing low drive to equalise on 72, before the home crowd was silenced as Corey Curritthers gave Wood the lead.

But the lead lasted just 37 seconds, as substitute Nicky Pugh curled an effort into the top corner. The winners face either Stourport Swifts or Hereford on Tuesday May 10 at Solihull Moors.

Ilkeston Town 4 Rushall Olympic 1 IT was a miserable penultimate away game for Rushall Olympic as they were well beaten at Ilkeston.

Despite having the better of the opening stages, the Pies found themselves a goal behind after 15 minutes when Kieran Preston slid in to gather a routine ball, but failed to hold it, leaving the goal wide open for Dexter Atkinson to tap in.

Danny Gordon grabbed the second for the Robins after 64 minutes before Preston saw red for fouling Luke Shaw in the box. Roy Lee converted past makeshift keeper Aris Christophorou seven minutes from time.

The Pies grabbed a goal through Andre Brown with five minutes to go but Tevahn Tyrell scored in stoppage time.

Lockmen pay for goalkeeping errors

Willenhall Town 0 Stone OA 2 TWO goalkeeping errors cost Willenhall in a 2-0 home defeat to Stone Old Alleynians.

The visitors took the lead on 10 minutes when a back pass to Ben Holden wasn't properly dealt with under pressure and his poor clearance was fired back past him although he appeared to get a touch to the ball.

George Askey and Sam Chilvers both fired wide for the visitors before they stretched their lead on 35 minutes when another poor clearance from Holden allowed Danny Heard the chance to fire into the corner of the net.

WESTON POWER IN WALSALL WIN

Walsall 9 Burton 0

WALSALL Rugby Club had the satisfaction of finishing what has been a difficult season with a win over one of their traditional Staffordshire opponents.

The team produced an inspired performance and showed qualities which have been missing during most of their matches this season.

The 9-0 victory was in stark contrast to the 77-7 defeat at Peel Croft on the opening day of the campaign last September. The unexpected victory was based on an outstanding defensive performance, with all of the players producing crucial tackles that continuously repelled Burton attacks.

This was especially so during the second half, when most of the game was played in Walsall territory. The hosts showed early confidence and were soon on the attack, but a spilled pass was reminiscent of other games this season. However, this pressure forced the visitors to concede a penalty which Roger Weston converted from 25m.

Walsall's Reece Bennett created the only other scoring opportunities of the half. A superb 40m break resulted in him being tackled illegally and Weston put over a 30m penalty.

Both teams were guilty of failing to retain possession for any sustained period, leading to a rather disjointed contest. The visitors had a couple of scoring chances when they eventually secured a position close to the Walsall line. But some heroic tackling resulted in Walsall denying their opponents any scores, a feat not seen all season. This defensive commitment was maintained by all of the players, including Richard Towe, the 'experienced' centre came on as a replacement for his first appearance in two years. An even greater contribution was made by debutant Ethan Walker.

The Queen Mary's and county schools player had few opportunities to show his attacking skills. But he was required to make several defensive tackles and was involved in a midfield chase and tackle that led to the final match-winning penalty, scored again by Weston from 45m out.

Despite the victory, Walsall were already doomed to relegation from Midlands One West.

Patience pays off for Saddlers



Saddlers players celebrate with Jordy Hiwula after his late matchwinner

Walsall 1 Southend 0

GOOD things come to those who wait. And while Saddlers fans have had to be hugely patient in their last two trips to the Banks's Stadium – the wait has been more than worth it.

Against Colchester, Jon Whitney's side were fortunate to grab two last minute goals to win 2-1. But against Southend, it was the Shrimpers who were lucky to make the long journey home having only lost by a single goal.

Having swept aside promotion rivals Gillingham, Walsall picked up where they left off in Kent, moving the ball around quickly. But they found 22-year-old goalkeeper Daniel Bentley in

outstanding form. Just how the Saddlers didn't take the lead in a frantic spell around the half-hour mark had to be seen to be believed. Bentley made a terrific triple save, but when the ball then fell to Jordy Hiwula he was guilty of one of the misses of the season.

For all Walsall's impressive attacking play, it was ironic that, when a goal finally arrived, it was scrappy and from a corner, with Hiwula nodding the ball home.

Now, with Burton failing to win, automatic promotion is back in the Saddlers' hands. If they continue to perform like they did here and at Gillingham, a place in the Championship will be secured.

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